Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Further on Castro News Conference in Quito

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[News conference held by President Fidel Castro with Ecuadoran and foreign reporters, with Jorge Leon moderating, in Quito, Ecuador, "on the morning of 13 August"—recorded]

[Text] [Leon] We can begin by giving the floor to (Hernan Jube) from Quito's HOY.

[(Jube)] Commander, allow me to ask the following question. I would like you to assess the significance of your visit to Ecuador, the meetings that you had the opportunity to hold with various heads of state; in sum, how would you describe your visit to this country? Thank you very much.

[Castro] Well, it's not easy to make an assessment. If I do, I would almost be making an evaluation of my visit and my work. What I can give you are impressions. The impressions I have and the impressions I take with me are very good. I will never forget my encounter with the Ecuadoran people and basically with the people of Quito, where I have spent my time. I will never have enough words to express my appreciation. From my vantage point, the meetings, the exchanges of views with the various leaders here, have been excellent. From this viewpoint, I feel that the hectic pace of these past few days, during which there has hardly been time to rest, eat, or sleep, was worth it.

It would not be advisable to say what I talked about in each of my meetings. Discretion, among other things, runs contrary to the job of journalists. [laughter] However, we have broached important topics dealing with the current situation, with the most pressing issues; we discussed the question of the foreign debt, the question of unequal trade, the new international economic order, the problems of drug trafficking, and the need to act in concert to find solutions to these problems. More than bilateral issues, we talked about these topics, these questions. That is why my assessment, which is what you are asking for, is that in this sense my meetings with the leaders have been extraordinarily positive. For me, my encounter with the Ecuadoran people has truly had an effect. In my opinion, everything that has been happening overall is a symptom of the new times.

Since I have a reputation for speaking a lot, this time I will be brief. [laughter]

[Leon] Colleague Marcos Nunez from Quito's EL COMERCIO has asked for the floor.

[Nunez] Commander, you have stated that the United States does not want to achieve peace in Central America. What would you suggest that the Contadora Group do to achieve peace in Central America?

[Castro] Do you think I can answer in 2 seconds what a whole group of countries and governments has been unable to accomplish in 7 or 8 years? [laughter; applause] It really is a very complex issue.

Well, if I can say anything or make any sort of recommendation, it's to tell them that they should persist. Their work has been very useful, very positive. For the first time Latin America is trying to solve the problems on its own. I feel that their work has been highly appreciated and useful in preventing one more intervention, one more interference by the United States in Central America and Latin America. Despite ups and downs determined by circumstances, their efforts have produced results. I feel that this group of countries must keep making efforts to prevent intervention and to find a peaceful, honorable, and fair solution to the problems of Central America.

[Leon] We now give the floor to Luis Moncayo from EXPRESO, who has also said he wants to speak.

[Castro] The way we are going I think that a lot of people are going to speak.

[Leon] Yes, it seems so.

[Castro] Not to speak, to ask questions.

[Moncayo] Commander Fidel Castro, will the Borja government keep intensifying commercial, cultural, and technological relations, like the Febres Cordero government? In the political area, if you allow me a second question, do you think that the Social Democrats in the new government are worthy successors of Cuban-style socialism?

[Castro] What a question! [laughter] In the first place, relations have developed more and more as circumstances have permitted.

I think that [words indistinct]. I also think that better conditions will be created every day for the development of friendship and cooperation between our countries.

You then asked if the government of Rodrigo Borja, a Social Democratic government, could be.... [changes thought] Please repeat the word you used.

[Moncayo] Do you think the [word indistinct] democracy of the government of Rodrigo Borja is an honorable successor of [words indistinct]?

[Castro] An honorable successor of socialism, no. I would say that it might be an honorable successor of the country's traditions. It may be a group that is worthy of

the struggle to resolve the country's problems, but we can't establish a relationship between the problems of Cuba and those of Ecuador or between Cuba's policy and that of the Social Democrats.

I think it would be better to define it like this: I think that Rodrigo Borja is a president worthy of this country. [applause] He is a president worthy of this country. I am certain he will fight and do his utmost to resolve the huge problems that Ecuador—like all our countries— has to solve. I imagine he will do things in the Ecuadoran manner to solve Ecuadoran problems. [applause] He will act in a truly different manner from the way we solve our problems and he will have a different style even though we have many things in common. Do you know what we have in common? We have problems in common. We have economic problems, problems related to the international situation, the debt, unequal trade. We have in common all those different ways in which our countries are exploited.

I think any country that struggles to solve those problems, any leader who struggles to solve those problems, can be considered not a successor of some other system, but rather an honorable successor of their forerunners, worthy successors of the liberators of our peoples.

[Leon] We now give the floor to our colleague, Rafael Orrejola from AFP.

[Orrejola] Commander, at the economic meeting in Havana you referred to the topic of the foreign debt. I would like to ask you if you continue to believe that the debt is unpayable and uncollectable.

[Castro] Well I'm not the only one who thinks that now, [laughs]. There were few of us in 1985 who had this opinion but our numbers were growing.

I think there is almost unanimous belief today that the debt is unpayable and uncollectable. Time has proven this. Conditions are becoming more difficult all the time.

That is why I was making the comparison to a person who needs blood but has blood drawn from him instead. We barely have blood; nevertheless, it is being extracted from us. They are still extracting $15.7 billion from us. This, added to what was extracted in 1982, equals $145 billion. We are back to the early days of colonialism. We are back to the past centuries when they made us work to extract the gold, silver, and resources of our countries. This is also happening today in the same way. The colonial countries were the ones that financed the development of those countries which today are the developed capitalist powers. Today we are doing exactly the same thing. The difference is that each time we can only give less, because each time we have less. [applause]

[Leon] Next on my list I have colleague Francisco Herrera from Channel 8.

[Herrera] [Words indistinct] the world socialist system is sometimes called—by those who oppose it—a personality cult that focuses on the permanence of leaders at the head of such governments.

[Castro] Yes.

[Herrera] What would happen in Cuba if Fidel Castro would leave power at this moment? How would the Cuban political system stand the absence of its leader, based on an analysis of the famous personality cult? Thank you, Commander.

[Castro] This seems to be a very interesting question, but I could also ask a question before giving my answer: What is the personality cult? Could you define it?

[Herrera] Personally, I couldn't.

[Castro] How is that?

[Herrera] Personally, I couldn't. I am sorry about my lack of knowledge in that regard, Commander.

[Castro] Frankly, I also feel a lack of knowledge in terms of being able to answer the question. [laugher; applause] I think that the expression personality cult was coined by the Soviets. It was a result of some congress back in the times of Nikita Khrushchev. When he was analyzing with Stalin the problems of the USSR, he used the expression, personality cult. However, we don't know whether the existence of a statue of a political personality is an indication a presonality cult exists. If that is a personality cult, I don't have a single statue in Cuba; I don't even have pictures in the state offices, or streets called Fidel Castro. Also, it is a historical fact that one of the first laws, decrees, or decisions taken by the revolutionary government was the permanent prohibition of that because manifestations of that sort began taking place. We could not honor the living with any such homage.

If a cult is understood to be a personality, a personal government, then we cannot talk about a personality cult in our country. This is because when the revolution triumphed, I was commander in chief of a victorious army. However, even earlier, I had been concerned about [words indistinct] of collective responsibility, collective management. Ever since we began the organization of our movement, in complete clandestinity, we had a group of leaders who would analyze and make decisions concerning problems. Certain abilities were attributed to me. I even used to discuss the problems with smaller groups of three people. I would discuss with them all the problems related to the plans, and we would discuss the action to be taken in our country.

If personality cult is understood to be the abusive exertion of power, we cannot talk about a personality cult in our country. In our country, power is shared collectively with the state's leadership, and basically by

the leadership, the party. Or if personality cult means what I have sometimes called the law of Saturn—the law that came out at the time of the French Revolution, and gave rise to someone saying that the revolution, like Saturn, would devour its own children.

This in fact occurred, because one day the king or the queen would be beheaded, and the next day it would be the head of Mirabeau or Danton or Robespierre. That's the way it went. We all know a little bit about this. I can assure you that the law of Saturn has not had a chance to be in evidence in our revolutionary process. Thus I see so many differences, such different characteristics, between the processes of the October Revolution in the Soviet Union and our processes. I see no similarity.

If by cult of personality, you mean the reelection of leaders when they are perceived to have the responsibility and capacity or experience to lead something as difficult as a revolutionary process, then you would have to speak of a personality cult in many places. You would have to say there is a personality cult in France because Mitterrand was reelected. You would have to say there is a personality cult in Great Britain because people elect and reelect Mrs Thatcher, and reelect her again. You would have to say there is a personality cult in Spain because they elect and reelect Felipe Gonzalez, and reelect him again. I don't know how long Felipe Gonzalez will remain at the head of the government. Sometimes the socialists say they need a long time [words indistinct] or 20 years.

If that's what it's all about [words indistinct] leaders in power, then you would have to speak about a personality cult in many countries.

In fact, with all due respect, it could be said that there is a personality cult in the church because the pope is elected and he continues to be pope, respected and venerated, for a long time. [applause]

[Herrera] Commander....

[Castro, interrupting] I am trying to answer your question on the basis of certain elements that might be considered raw material for the personality cult theory. Yes, tell me.

[Herrera] Commander, I was asking what would happen in Cuba to the Cuban system if Fidel Castro left power.

[Castro] Perhaps Cuba would work better. [laughter] No one knows. [applause] I have answered your question. [laughter]

[Herrera] If you consider that an answer! Thank you, Commander.

[Leon] I now have on my list (Heba Ponemunski de Lecuan).

[Castro] (Lecuan). French? Ah, France, Paris. [laughter]

[(Lecuan)] I must say you do not look 62. [laughter; someone shouts: "It's his birthday"; prolonged applause]

[Castro] Thank you. I had forgotten. [laughter]

[(Lecuan)] The people and public opinion of Western Europe look with sympathy and interest on Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts to effect an opening, glasnost, and a political reform of the public institutions in the Soviet Union, what is called perestroyka. Apparently, something similar has not taken place in Cuba. Is this because conditions in Cuba are different?

[Castro] It's better... [changes thought] Well, thank goodness that Western Europe is finding something good coming out of the Soviet Union! [laughter] I do know that since the Bolshevik revolution what Western Europe has done is to blockade it, surround it, attack it, invade it. I do know that they invaded it with millions of soldiers in 1941. I do know everything Europe has done as an ally of the United States in the cold war. That is why I say, thank goodness that capitalist, bourgeois Western Europe finally thinks something coming out of the Soviet Union is good. When will the day come when capitalist and bourgeois Western Europe thinks something coming out of Cuba is good? [applause]

So I don't know why people say that there is no similar process; what's more important, I don't know why people say that there must be a similar process. What is there in the history of the Soviet Union and in the history of Cuba that is exactly the same? If certain problems arose there that did not occur in Cuba, why should we in Cuba take all the same measures taken in the Soviet Union? Why, if we did so many different things, if our agrarian reform was different, if we did not parcel out the big estates and instead worked hard to turn them into modern, industrialized agricultural enterprises supported by technology? We had the vision not to turn the country into a country of minifundia, which would have (?hurt) Cuba's sugar production. It must not be forgotten that Cuba produces food for 40 million people around the world. Our island is small, covering a bit over 100,000 square km, with a population just over 10 million, almost 100 inhabitants per square kilometer. And yet it produces and exports food for 40 million people.

I don't think that we would have been able to speak in these terms if we had turned the country into a nation of minifundia where we would not be able to use machinery, technology, irrigation, or the sugarcane harvester which has saved the labor of almost 300,000 compatriots.

If we had not done this... [changes thought] What we did was maintain those units, that land, and we developed it. We gave the land to those who used it without obtaining

a title from the owner [precaristas], to those who paid for the use of the land [arrendatarios], to those who lived in a colony on the land and paid for using it [colonos], and so forth.

If we did not have to force collectivism, as Soviet leaders say occurred in the USSR—and we don't have that kind of problem—then why do we have to apply measures similar to those used there, where they did have those problems? If we have an electoral system that is totally different from the Soviet system, if in our country the party does not interfere to nominate candidates for primary elections, in selecting district delegates... [changes thought] They are selected by the people in an assembly meeting. In addition, they are the basis, the foundation, of the people's government at the municipal, provincial, and national levels. If the Soviets decide to carry out a reform in their electoral laws because they have a different procedure, why should we have to do the same?

If we have attained great success in a certain area, they can also refuse to do the same. If we have attained great success in the education and health of our people, if we have reduced infant mortality to the lowest rate of all Third World countries, if we have increased life expectancy to the highest levels throughout the entire Third World to the point where it can be compared to more industrialized countries, and if they had some difficulties in any of those areas, why should we do the same thing they do?

We have applied different concepts in education and in many other tasks. If we have different problems, why should we have to apply the same solution?

Like I said, if someone has a toothache, why should we treat him for corns; if someone has corns, why should we treat him for a toothache?

I cannot understand all this campaign to differentiate the Soviets and Cubans, to sow division between the Soviets and Cubans. I have discussed this with Gorbachev because I have excellent relations with Gorbachev and I have had excellent exchanges of opinions with him for hours on many topics. I have even said to him: They're trying to divide us because we do not do things the same way. Gorbachev's response was: Why do we have to do things the same way?

I want you to know that the difference in relations between Soviets and Cubans has created no problem between me and Gorbachev. We do things differently. If someone is going to make a mistake, it should be his own error and not someone else's.

In the past, we were constantly being accused of being a Soviet satellite and every time we did something they said it was because of the Soviets. Now they are accusing us of not doing what the Soviets do. Where have we ended up? Where will it all end? [applause]

What is the second....

[Leon, interrupting] Thank you very much, Commander. You were....

[(Lecuan), interrupting] I have a second question. You were seated at the Congress during the transfer of the presidency, next to the pope's delegate, the apostolic nuncio. In the morning you had a friendly talk with the apostolic delegate but not in the afternoon. In the afternoon President Arias was seated next to you.

What are your relations, the relations of the Cuban Government, with the Catholic Church?

[Castro] I'll have to give you the history of this, although it will be brief so as not to bore you. Based on protocol, I had the privilege, honor, luck, or misfortune—I'm not sure what to call it [laughter]—of being one of the first people there. I was there on the first day and the only other person who was there before me was Colombia's apostolic nuncio. There was no one else to speak to except the apostolic nuncio. [laughter] I truly spoke to him with pleasure. He was very nice. We talked, exchanged views on different things, people we knew, such as a nuncio who was in Cuba. We talked of such topics for about 50 minutes. I also spoke to other people as they arrived. I spoke to others. I saw that people were very interested in what I did. [laughter] They wanted to see with whom I spoke.

They said: He spoke to him and him. They were saying this in the morning. Now you're telling me that the only thing I did in the afternoon was talk and I truly gave an enormous amount of attention to the speech by President Borja.

[Words indistinct] observers gave to some topics, not to those pertaining to internal matters. As a guest of this country, I should not give my opinion on internal matters.

In reference to many international, economic, and political problems and political concepts in general [words indistinct] I responded to those matters related to the external situation. Many times I asked a question because sometimes the audio fails. I would ask a question because sometimes the applause started before he finished speaking. I would ask: What did he say? If I was tested on what I asked I could probably pass, not with an outstanding grade, but with a satisfactory grade. [laughter]

I got there even earlier on the second day. I think that there were two or three people there on the first day. On the second day, the only person there was the nuncio. I said: What luck, I have the nuncio here next to me. [laughter] When you enter a room that has a curved or semicircular structure or arrangement during a situation that is so solemn with a multitude of people in the galleries expressing themselves with so much fervor, expressing kindness toward the visitors, and they seat

you at the main platform—I was there alone. I was there by myself for almost an hour. The people were talking, expressing their feelings, joy, criticism, or whatever.

I didn't know what to do with my hands. I didn't know if I should stick them in my pockets. If I should do this with them, if I should cross my arms like this. I didn't known what to do. I spoke to the nuncio.

I said to the nuncio: Msgr, Msgr [repeats himself], do you know how I feel? I feel like I'm in a Roman circus. The nuncio said to me: Yes, but as a lion. [laughter; applause] I immediately said to him: No, as a Christian. [laughter; applause] That's why I couldn't help but appear happy when others arrived to share that privilege with me.

I was very happy when others arrived—other leaders arrived, such as Alfonso Guerra—not just because of the sincere feeling of friendship I had with those who were arriving, but because I saw them as liberators for then I wouldn't be the only one there. I was so enthusiastic as the Latin American leaders arrived that I almost applauded Shultz. [laughter; applause] Wait, wait; it wasn't that I saw Shultz as a liberator [interrupted by laughter] or someone who would share the attention of that distinguished public with me. It was because people said Shultz would not be there. Everyone said: Shultz won't go. By a certain time, everyone was saying: Shultz won't go. He won't go because of a mural by Guayasamin.

Even the mural became the most famous one in the world in a short amount of time. [laughter] No one could become as famous this fast, not even Guayasamin. Even though Guayasamin's paintings are famous before he paints them, on this occasion, no one could make a painting as famous in such a short time. This could only be accomplished by the haughtiness of the empire, that empire that speaks of liberty and other things. I sincerely say that they wanted to mutilate the enlightening thought of Guayasamin. As a result, cables throughout the world [interrupted by applause]—all cables throughout the world mentioned Guayasamin's mural. It might have taken longer for it to become famous. They said that Shultz would not come. A little applause began, just a little.

I think another Latin American leader entered, another friend, and I myself began to go like this: [video shows Castro applauding] I think I did it two or three times. I even asked: Who's coming? They told me it was Shultz and I just sat there. [laughter] It's not that I wasn't willing to applaud for Shultz. Courtesy demands this and courtesy does not make one less brave, but I would like to be aware of the situation when I applaud and not do it erroneously. [laughter] As you can imagine, I was very surprised.

I saw Shultz arrive. He sat down. He put on his apparatus. I did not want to look at him too much so it wouldn't look as if I was giving the matter so much importance. [laughter] Every once in a while I would take a peek over there just out of curiosity. [laughter] I would look out of historical, political curiosity. I wanted to see how he acted, what he did. Others paid more attention to him and they told me about it later. [laughter] They said he arrived and modestly sat down. He politely sat down. They said that after a while he began to go like this to look at Guayasamin's mural. [laughter] Shultz himself was very interested in Guayasamin's mural which he made famous.

Notice how many things happened to me there that day, how good my relations with the church will be. [laughter] I have never been more grateful to the church. [applause]

Furthermore, our relations with the church are known; our ideas about the church and religion are known. There is a widely circulated book written by Father Beto entitled "Fidel and Religion." The title is so suggestive people have bought it because of that. They have bought it to see what I have to say about that, not because I am so important, but because the subject is very important.

My position is known; furthermore, my words to the church and the pope have always been words of respect. When the pope tours Latin America and speaks with the peasants, he sees the poverty and misery, he speaks about agrarian reform, the need to find land for the peasants. When he arrives at an unhealty neighborhood, such as in Lima, where millions of people live in very difficult conditions, he speaks of the need for housing, health, education. When he sees great unemployment, he speaks of the need to find work for the nation. Therefore, he makes statements which reflect what he sees with his very own eyes.

Generally, I can say that relations with the church are normal in our country. This is because our revolution was never inspired by an antireligious spirit. I can tell you that I know the history of many revolutions and in general, they have been in conflict with the church. You know about the French Revolution, how it came about and developed. There were three estates. Among them was the clergy, which later divided. One part supported the old regime, another part the people and the revolution. In almost all revolutions, there was the phenomenon of serious conflict which even gave rise to bloody episodes. I can tell you that in our country no one can talk about an executed priest. Even on those occasions when there were conflicts between the revolution and certain priests, my example (?is) [words indistinct] by the mercenary invasion of Giron. Logically, we had to capture the mercenaries who survived [words indistinct] they weren't imprisoned very long. Whenever there was a priest arrested under different circumstances, they were in prison a very short time. We took great care to ensure that the revolution did not have the image of being against religion and church, not only the Catholic Church, but any church

There was a nuncio who I liked very much, a Mr Sachi. He was there when certain conflicts arose. These conflicts were not because of religious matters but because of the richer persons. They had been the only ones who had

the privilege of going to church, and when the revolutionary laws came about, contradictions developed in all those sectors. Those sectors wanted to use the church as an instrument against the revolution. This monsignor did an excellent and brilliant job in resolving that situation. That is why I respect him very much, and I remember him very much. Among other things, I also asked the nuncio of Colombia if he was a friend of or knew Mr Sachi, and to give him my regards.

Although there certainly were contradictions, the revolution was extremely careful, not because of the kindness of the revolution, or the paternalism of the revolution, but as a matter of principle. The principle of complete respect for the beliefs of the citizens is an essential principle for us. It is not a gift from the revolution; it is a right, a principle that the revolution respects. [applause]

[Leon] According to my list, Wilson Zapata from the newspaper EL TELEGRAFO may ask the next question.

[Zapata] A lot is said in Havana about the revolution around the year 2000. What are the plans, the goals, for the year 2000?

[Castro, chuckling] Well, everyone thinks about the year 2000. There is hardly any political leader today who does not talk about the year 2000. I believe President Borja in his speech said that the country should get ready for the year 2000, (?look) for solutions to the problems of the year 2000. It is a habit for the human mind to set goals, to fix on dates. But I belive that we should not only think about the year 2000 but a bit beyond. We have development plans prepared 20 years in advance. They are general development lines, for perhaps 15 years. We have also used the year 2000 as a factor. I can talk to you about some things. For example, medicine.

We have prepared and put into practice the development plans for 35 clinical-surgical specialties up to the year 2000. I can tell you the number of doctors we will have in the year 2000. We are going to have 65,000 doctors. We are graduating 3,000 per year. I feel it is a goal that might be exceeded if we do not take some measures, such as reducing enrollment in some way in the schools of medicine.

In general, we prepare social development programs on the basis of the country's needs. I can tell you that in the year 2000, we plan to have essentially solved the problem of housing. We have programs for 1990 so that we can build 20,000 units per year in the capital. We hope to reach some 250,000 by the year 2000. This program began earlier; it began in 1988. We have plans to build schools for the year 2000. We have development plans for the year 2000. I believe that the dates are a motivation for the way we are going to welcome the beginning of the third millennium.

We are not waiting for the year 2000 to solve big problems in our country in many fields. We believe that by the year 2000 we will have a much greater level of technological and scientific development, a much greater level of economic development. We think we will have solved many problems by then. I do not think that there is any government in the world, whether socialist or capitalist, progressive or conservative, that in some way is not thinking of the year 2000 and taking it as a point of reference. I hope that the year 2000 will find Latin America more integrated, more united.

I hope that the problem of the foreign debt will be settled by the year 2000 and that the new international economic order will be in place. I hope that we will be much less dependent than we are today on the economic powers. I hope that we will be much more free in the year 2000. I am convinced that our people, the Latin American people, will reach those objectives. The year 2000 should not be important for just one country building socialism, but something important for all countries, especially those of the Third World. I don't know what the problems of the developed capitalist countries may be. I don't know how alienated or chaotic those consumers societies may be. I don't know how high the level of AIDS, of drug consumption, in those consumer societies. I hope they can also solve their problems. That's what I can tell you. [applause]

[Leon] According to my list, it is now the turn of Gonzalo Ruiz of Radio Quito.

[Castro] Radio.

[Ruiz] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] Regarding your first question, we can't talk about specific documents, specific agreements. The presidents came for only a short visit. We had a lot of contact at different times and several meetings. We did not meet to analyze together a series of problems, to adopt accords, and to issue opinions about very important problems. All of this occurred in a series of exchanges. I would say that the most concrete result was a good feeling, a great step forward, a high level of contact among the leaders and a high level of agreement on views, especially on the awareness of the need to confront the serious problems we have. Although this has not resulted in documents, I think it is all to the good.

Quito really became the capital of Latin America during these days. There has been a lot of talk around the world about the change in government, about events here. They have been on the front pages of all the newspapers. A lot of attention was concentrated on Quito, as a matter of fact. Now that you speak about it, you remind me that in an interview together with the various leaders over Television Andino, they told me that Bolivar had reportedly said once that because of its geographical location and other reasons, Quito could be the capital of a united Latin America. I was asked for my opinion. I said that I could not guarantee

impartiality in what I said because I was very impressed, very thrilled, by all the courtesies I received. I was thrilled with the people of Quito. I said if there were a meeting, an assembly, and I was asked, I would immediately raise both hands to vote in favor of Quito as capital of Latin America. [applause] I even said that the only inconvenience was landing here. [laughter] At this altitude, with these problems, I said a hill might have to be flattened, such as the (Doter), etc, as long as it's not Pichincha or the mountain; some place where you can have a good airport where landing would be safer. After all, no matter how much progress is made in communications, on the Pan-American Highway, leaders are not going to come to the capital on foot. If those from Cuenca come by plane, then those from Rio de Janeiro, Uruguay, Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Mexico will have to come by plane as well.

That's what I said. I said how much I liked Bolivar's idea.

As to the reaction to our visits, this shows the extent to which they interfere in our affairs, the extent to which they meddle in our internal affairs. It's as if the presidents, the governments, had no right to invite the leaders of other countries to visit. I ask myself: When the United States invites someone to visit, do you ever see the Latin American governments protesting, getting annoyed or indignant because they invite anyone? Visitors are continually arriving in the United States. It's as if we were to become annoyed because Reagan invited Gorbachev to go to Washington. And I can assure you that there is a bigger difference between Reagan and Gorbachev than the difference that could exist between us and the Government of Ecuador, between us and President Borja. So, this is meddling in the internal affairs of other countries. It is a matter of arrogance and perhaps a gesture of desperation in view of the real fact that the United States is becoming increasingly isolated in this hemisphere, the real fact that our countries are increasingly independent.

What is amazing is that Washington should have to venture giving views on the figures or political leaders who are invited to an event such as this. Our countries have so many things in common, our histories have so many things in common. We have so many things in common, so many problems and aspirations in common at present. Why wouldn't Daniel Ortega be invited? Why not invite a Cuban leader or anyone who might occupy the presidency in our country? Who did Reagan want to be invited here? Bermudez, the Somozist leading the counterrevolution?

It is absurd. It is something to cause indignation, something truly intolerable. As the saying goes, all they do is struggle in vain with their interference and protest. What you have to ask is what the Ecuadoran people think about Ortega's visit and about my visit. I believe that the people have reacted warmly and extensively. They have reacted with joy and satisfaction. I have encountered countless Ecuadoreans at all political and social levels. And I heard amazing words: Many of them told me, thank you for coming. I told myself: How can they thank me for having come here when I should be the one to give thanks for getting the invitation! I should be the one giving thanks for the hospitality accorded by all the sectors, all the political parties and political forces. Of course, the only opinion that matters is the opinion of the Ecuadoran people.

If I had been received coldly, if I had been received with hostility, I would really have cause for concern. I would be very concerned. But if Reagan is bothered because I came to Ecuador, then I could not care less. I do not care at all. [applause] And I say: It was worth the effort, the risk, the days without eating and the nights without sleeping. And this is not because I was denied room and board but because there was no time. It was worth the risk. There are always risks. Why talk about it? There's a long history of plans, of attacks against the leaders of the Cuban revolution, assassination plans against the leaders of the Cuban revolution.

[Words indistinct] the inauguration of the new president, the transfer of power. Perhaps the basic irritation derives from the warmth, the affection, the extraordinary hospitality with which the Ecuadoran people welcomed us. [applause]

[Leon] OK, it's the turn of (Jose Steinberger), of the Latin American Agency for Special Information Services [ALASEI].

[(Steinberger)] Commander, I am (Jose Steinberger) of ALASEI. I have two questions. One of them refers to the Latin American economy at the end of the century. In the corridors outside a recent meeting of Andean Pact foreign ministers, it was being said unofficially that Latin America lacked a strategy, a strategic economic plan for the decade of the 1990's. It was said that if Latin America could not come up with one, it had to definitively annul its traditional model of integration, cooperation, and solidarity and compensate for the absence of this model with a scheme such as Southeast Asia's. My specific question is: Do you think that the international economy, this world technological reconversion, points to the formation of a new empire with its seat in Southeast Asia, particularly Japan?

[Castro] Those who assert that Latin America does not have a strategic plan for the 1990's are correct. This strategic plan does not exist. It has not been drafted. I think it is one of our duties, it is one of our most essential needs. I think that the Latin American states must inevitably move in this direction. As to the Southeast Asia model, I don't think it is viable.

There are some countries that have tried it. There are countries in this hemisphere—I don't want to name names—some Caribbean country that dreamed of being another Taiwan. It dreamed about being another Hong Kong, another Singapore, another South Korea. Vast

investments were made by multinational firms in these countries to make use of cheap labor, to establish all types of firms that caused contamination, to benefit from regimes of force and repression. It is absolutely impossible for this history to repeat itself in Latin America. Those who dreamed of building another Taiwan in this hemisphere have failed tremendously.

Our road is clear. We have to integrate and sooner or later all leaders will become aware of this. Europe cannot survive without integration. They not only marched toward economic integration—those countries that fought for centuries—they will soon surpass all the frontiers from an economic point of view and they are headed toward political integration. We live in a world of large economic communities—the United States, Western Europe, the socialist community, Japan.

What kind of a future do we have as divided, balkanized countries? What are our possibilities for survival? What are our possibilities for playing a role in the third millennium? We have no possibilities. Yet I'm optimistic about this because each day I have a better understanding. Each day I admire more our peoples' qualities. I think they are peoples that are worthy of a better destiny.

In regard to Japan, it will undoubtedly play a much more important role in the future of those countries it has affected in the past several decades because of its unquestionable financial, technological, and industrial power. Japan is beginning to play a larger role throughout the world and, above all, in the Third World. However, I don't think Japan will dominate our economy. I don't think it will become a new empire to Latin America.

There is a struggle between the large powers for markets. These struggles used to be expressed in wars. They used to be expressed in wars [repeats himself]. Today they are not expressed as wars because the world lives under entirely different conditions.

Japan advanced very much because the United States invested in aircraft carriers, battleships, Star Wars. The United States invested hundreds of billions of dollars and, technologically, they lagged behind Japan. Many industries in which the United States was ahead, such as the steel, chemical, and electronics industries, lagged behind Japan. Something even more surprising was that the United States lagged behind Japan in the automobile industry. The United States was the one that began the era of automobiles. They were the pioneers of automotives and they even fell behind Japan in this field because someone did Japan a favor by prohibiting them from developing weapons and Japan dedicated its resources to development. That is why today it has an economic and financial position much better than that of the United States.

The Japanese, however, may be investing much more in the United States than in Latin America. The investments Japan has made in the United States are enormous, including investments in the automobile industry to overcome the resistance of the United States, to maintain the markets they have won there. I think Japan will have more influence in the long run in the United States. Japan will have more economic power in the United States than influence or economic power in Latin America. That's what I think. I don't know if this answers your question. Would you like to ask something else?

[(Steinberger)] Yes, thank you very much, Commander. I have a very brief question. There is a very eloquent absence of information referring to the progress of the negotiations on the problem in South Africa. If South Africa arrives at a peace agreement and maintains the apartheid regime, do you think it will be possible, with this peace agreement, to respect the territory of Namibia, the independence of Angola? Do you have confidence in the statements and commitments made by South African leaders should a peace agreement be signed in Geneva?

[Castro] At the last nonaligned countries meeting in Harare, we expressed our willingness to maintain our cooperation with Angola as long as apartheid existed. I clearly stated that as long as apartheid exists, there will be dangers for all Front-Line States. The danger of attack will exist.

This is not a matter for us to decide; the Angolans have to reach a decision on their own. Angolans have been suffering from South African attacks for many years. It is logical for Angola to want peace. Therefore Angola is willing to find a solution despite the problems, without waiting for apartheid to end. We believe that the Angolan Government has a just and correct view and is worthy of all our support.

They decided to begin discussions under certain conditions. First of all, Namibia's independence, the withdrawal of South Africans from Namibia, from the Namibian borders, the end of South African aid to the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], international guarantees for Angola's safety. Based on those principles, Angolans and Cubans were willing to begin the gradual and total withdrawal of internationalist Cuban forces from Angolan territory. The negotiations have been based on this.

This would require a lengthy explanation of everything that happened there in the last 9 months, of the South African escalation in southern Angola, the attempt to eliminate a group of Angolan troops in Cuito Cuanavale, the reinforcements sent by Cuba, the support we gave in Cuito Cuanavale, the advance of Cuban-Angolan forces toward the Namibian border in the western sector of the southern front, and a significant change of the balance of power in our favor. There were a set of factors which helped to create the conditions for a negotiated political

solution. All these negotiations are delicate and complex. The negotiations and agreements are referred to in general. Certain principles were agreed on in New York, and these will be the basis of the negotiations. One of those principles was UN Resolution No 435, on non-interference in domestic affairs among the states of the region. There were a number of points. Among them was the gradual withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist contingent, a gradual and total withdrawal from the People's Republic of Angola. The New York agreements were an important step toward progress. Then later, at the Geneva meetings, agreement was reached on 10 points which are practically part of the final peace agreements. Agreement has been reached on many important matters. In fact, a cease-fire is already in place. Quick progress is being made toward a solution. The various delegations agreed to issue a communique explaining in general the points on which we had made progress but not to reveal concretely and specifically each one of the agreements reached. This is why we should respect what was agreed on among the representatives of Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States.

So, a number of fundamental matters have been agreed on, including the date of the beginning of UN Resolution No 435. Fundamentally, the only thing that has to be discussed is the timetable for the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist contingent, the gradual and total withdrawal. This is the only point left in order to reach a final agreement. I believe it is not impossible to reach. There are different positions—those of South Africa, Angola and Cuba. Different periods have been mentioned. There is a limit beyond which we cannot go. There is a minimum period of time required for the withdrawal. I believe there are favorable perspectives to reach an agreement on this point, which is practically the only one left. So, considerable progress has been made.

This was one of the matters which made my trip possible. I had told many Ecuadoreans that my trip depended on how the Geneva negotiations went. I have had to pay very close attention to all these matters, military and diplomatic matters. I had said that if they went well then I would be able to leave Cuba for 3, 4, or 5 days to attend the change of government in Ecuador. The Geneva negotiations went well. Up to now everything is going well.

The last word cannot be said yet. Difficulties may still arise.

However, the negotiations are progressing well and we are getting closer to a peace solution. This peace needs to be guaranteed by the United Nations, the UN Security Council.

Of course as long as the main body of our army is there, we will support Angola to make sure the agreements are fulfilled. The danger could emerge later after the main body of the Cuban troops have been withdrawn. Danger related to apartheid could undeniably emerge because of the aggressive, bellicose nature of apartheid. Once those troops are totally withdrawn, no one will be able to prevent new actions against Namibia, possibly against Angola. That is why we want a strong commitment at the UN Security Council.

One can also say that a successful solution to this problem, the independence of Namibia, a solution to these problems through negotiation, could be a stimulus for a peaceful direction toward solving the problem of apartheid, which is something that is against history, against the conscience of humanity today. It is a phenomenon that cannot be perpetuated in any corner of the world. Instead of looking at the agreements in a pessimistic way, I think they open roads to a peaceful and negotiated solution to the problem of apartheid.

If I don't provide more statistics and details, it's because I feel obligated to respect the agreement to act with discretion and not reveal all the information we have on this matter.

[(Steinberger)] Thank you, Commander. [applause]

[Leon] It is now the turn of (Gladys Ruiz), LIBERACION.

[(Ruiz)] Comrade Fidel, over here. Comrade Fidel, you are the highest expression of the struggle of the people for national liberation in Latin America. That struggle is what truly unites us. What steps should be taken, what social forces should be organized, so that all our peoples can become aware of this need? Thank you.

[Castro] I thank you for your generous words describing me. The question you asked is not easy to answer in just a few moments. The question of what to do in each country is a delicate matter. I don't want to appear to be promoting the liberation movements or of giving advise on what should be done.

I am centering my attention fundamentally on matters that are very common for all countries, on battles that are indispensable for our liberation, primarily for our development, our survival. That is why I have focused my statements on questions previously mentioned here, such as the foreign debt, the economic crisis, the new international economic order, the serious problems that affect our countries. In a certain fashion, I am making a general appeal. We could tell all the sectors, all the democratic, progressive, nationalistic sectors, all those that have interests in common, that the debt and the economic crisis is affecting the entire world.

First of all, it is affecting the worker, the peasant. Unemployment affects the workers, the peasants, the most humble sectors of the population. What affects the national economy affects all sectors. Some suffer the consequences of the crisis more directly than others. No one suffers as much as the worker. No one suffers as much as the peasant. No one suffers as much as the humble sectors of the population.

We are appealing for internal unity among our countries and unity between countries to carry out a united battle against the phenomena that affect us in a terrible way, such as the ones I have mentioned and the phenomenon of drug trafficking. This is a new problem created by imperialism. It is a new problem created by the society of consumption in the United States. It is a serious problem and it even questions the states' reason for being, their sovereignty. The problems begin to accumulate. We have to fight those problems.

Second, we state the need for profound social changes, at least for social changes that lighten, improve, change the situation of the poorer sectors, the sectors that have suffered the most in our hemisphere. We are placing the emphasis, in these social changes, on this common battle against those who exploit us, who plunder us. Social changes, however, become truly indispensable in our hemisphere.

I was talking about this topic yesterday with the deputies, who posed several questions of this kind in connection with these topics. I expressed some of my convictions. For example, classic revolutions—I use the French Revolution, which will soon be 200 years old, as an example of a classic revolution; I use the October Revolution during the old empire of the czars as an example of a classic revolution. I don't use the Cuban revolution as an example of a classic revolution, because subjective factors had a big influence in the Cuban revolution, although there were enough objective factors to give rise to a revolution. It was not such a terrible, desperate situation as the one many Latin American countries are experiencing at present. I have told many figures I have met that an unavoidable duty of the current governing sectors, the present generation of Latin American leaders, is to find a solution to these terrible problems. Otherwise, our societies are moving toward situations so critical that objective conditions will be created similar to those preceding the big social explosions that occurred during the classic revolutions. Those classic revolutions were not created by any single individual. They were historically created; conditions grew and the lack of foresight by the rulers made these conditions critical. For anyone who has studied the French Revolution—it would be worthwhile to analyze and reanalyze the situation. A lot has been written about it. The economic and social conditions of French society on the eve of the revolution are known. The conditions under the czars are also known. They gave rise to a revolutionary explosion.

Furthermore, I have said that if monarchs with foresight had existed in France—perhaps if Louis XIV, Louis XV, Louis XVI had had the foresight, had been wise, and had been aware of and realized those situations—they might have been able to adopt measures to avert a crisis of the magnitude that gave rise to the explosion. Perhaps the French Revolution would not have occurred. I say the same thing about the czars. If there had been some intelligent and wise czars who had introduced reforms and changes to alleviate the situation of the masses in some way, then perhaps there would not have been a Bolshevik revolution either.

So, I note—and this is not a subversive proclamation but a warning, the expression of a conviction—that we are getting close to those situations that historically, elsewhere, led to the explosions, the classic revolutions, the uncontrollable, unmanageable social explosions. I feel that if all these problems continue to accumulate; if these social problems continue to get worse; if it can be clearly seen that they are going to continue to get worse everywhere; if unemployment, underemployment, poverty, and malnutrition continue to grow—and when you talk about unemployment and underemployment levels of 40 or 50 percent, you are talking about a very serious scenario—if these problems are not produced... [corrects himself] are not resolved, we are going to get closer to those objective conditions that will give rise to the classic revolutionary explosions. I hope that everybody will be aware, will be wise enough, to promote change—first of all, to solve the objective problems of our countries' economies, and second, to carry out measures of justice, equity, and distribution of wealth; to carry out the necessary, essential social changes to achieve social justice without the need for the terrible traumas caused by the classic revolutions and, in general, all revolutions.

I had promised a group of youths in an institution involved with economic issues that I would talk to them yesterday. In talking to them, I was using the example of our homeland, of Cuba, in its last fight for independence, the struggle organized and led by Jose Marti, one of the most extraordinary thinkers of our hemisphere. I don't know if he is sufficiently known in the countries of Latin America. When he was promoting the last fight for independence, it was said that it would bring bloodshed to the country, that it would lead to violence. He said that war was the last resort. He spoke of the necessary and useful war that had to be swift and well organized so as to cause the least damage possible. If Marti had been told that there were real prospects for Cuban independence without violence, Marti would have preferred that course. He only resorted to war as the last resort when there was no other course possible.

I am also convinced that if Lenin had been told social changes, the changes he wanted to achieve in his country, were possible without the trauma of a civil war and violence, Lenin would have preferred this road. That is why I express my conviction, and I think it is the conviction of all true revolutionaries, that violence is the last resource when there is no other road, when there is no other possibility for change. I think that hopefully, those men who have this responsibility in our hemisphere are capable of taking these steps and measures to solve these problems while avoiding the trauma of large social uprisings. Or, on the contrary, the current governments will play the role enacted by the last kings of France or the last czars of the old Russian empire.

To complement your idea, I have added these points of view, these opinions, these convictions which I stated to the comrades I mentioned to you in order to express my point of view on this matter.

I think it's a complex problem, a topic which could be discussed much but within a certain amount of time. That's what I can say in reference to your question. [applause]

[Speaker] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] I don't know. I think that many people have that question. However, as usual, it is preferable—as when I'm asked when I will leave, I tell them it's always preferable to leave 1 minute earlier than 1 minute later—to finish conferences, speeches, and everything 1 minute earlier than 1 minute later. I don't want the journalists to get bored. [crowd says: No!] I might get tired or people might lose interest in the topic.

[Leon] We stated that we would conclude at 1130 and it is 1130. Many people have asked to speak. There is no real possibility of responding to the number of colleagues that want to ask questions.

[Castro] I have another commitment to fulfill in the hours I have remaining here and I also have to leave.

[Reporter] Would one more question be possible....

[Castro, interrupting] I could pass the entire day here talking with you.

[Reporter] Mr President, perhaps one more question: I would like to ask you if in the current context of greater international dialogue, it would be possible to improve relations between Cuba and the United States. I would also like to take advantage of this opportunity to ask you about Central America.

President Arias said the other day that Cuba has a fundamental role to play in attaining peace in Central America. I would like to ask you if your government thinks that the withdrawal of Cuban advisers in Nicaragua or the influence you can exercise over the rebels in El Salvador could be a positive influence for peace in Central America.

[Castro] I will respond briefly. It is always possible to improve relations between Cuba and the United States and I think that the current international dialogue, international detente, can favor conditions for improved relations between Cuba and the United States.

What makes it difficult for those relations to prosper is that the United States practices interventionism in our country. While the United States practices that hegemonic role it has assigned itself, the role of owner it wants to play in our hemisphere, contradictions will always arise between the opinions of the United States and our views on the situation in this hemisphere.

We mentioned here at the beginning that they were irritated, indignant, that you invited us here, Daniel and me, to the inauguration of the new president. But they... [changes thought] However, we do not oppose improved relations with the United States based on the principles of respect for our sovereignty, not just our sovereignty, but also the sovereignty of all other Latin American countries.

As long as there is a conflict of this nature, we, of course, will be on the side of Latin American countries. Whenever an intervention occurs, we will oppose that intervention. As long as interference occurs, we will be against that interference and it will be a point of conflict and friction.

On the contrary, we do not oppose the process of international detente, the peace policy carried out by the Soviet Union. These circumstances have been accompanied by certain very important statements which we have been insisting upon very much, such as the association that exists between detente, disarmament, development and the resources for development. I think this is one of the most extraordinary and excellent ideas Gorbachev has promoted.

If there is something that benefits us all is precisely the detente and peace policy. But the world's problems are not limited to the nuclear weapons problem, the threat of nuclear war which unfortunately has continued. There are still terrible problems in the world such as underdevelopment, poverty, hunger, lack of education and health for billions of people in the world.

We were giving an example—President Borja spoke about how much was being spent on weapons, how many children died. An important piece of information can be added to this which I have referred to on other occasions. Some 40,000 children die every day of malnutrition and treatable diseases. Some 40,000 every day. Every day, 120,000 [as heard] die. It is as if every day a nuclear bomb such as the ones that exploded in Hiroshima and Nagasaki exploded among Third World children. It is not enough to talk about peace in general, it is not only a matter of us not destroying ourselves with nuclear weapons. The developed capitalist world is destroying the lives of millions of people in the Third World with weapons similar to nuclear weapons. [applause] The lives of millions of people in the Third World—I repeat, a nuclear bomb explodes among children every 3 days. Those are the ones who die. I am not talking about the ones who are left mentally and physically impaired as a result of these diseases and malnutrition. These are problems they are going to have the rest of their lives. When we hear about peace we have to hear not only

about peace in nuclear terms but about the end of the war, the type of cruel war that is as terrible as any other kind of war, against the peoples of the Third World. [applause]

Regarding the question about Central America, I feel that President Arias is too generous with us. I believe he gives us too much importance. I think that he might be overestimating our influence. Yet, if our relations with the Sandinists are good, excellent, and if our relations are very good with the Salvadoran revolutionary movement or any other revolutionary movement, it is because they are based on the strictest respect for their ideas, their criteria, their principles. We cannot interfere in their decisions. We cannot set the course for them to follow. We do not pretend nor can we ever pretend to tell them what they have to do. The day we overstep those principles, we would have practically no relations with those important political forces. Hence, I say that Cuba's role is overestimated when it is said that Cuba can exert a fundamental, decisive influence. I think it is best to see things clearly, see where the cause of those conflicts lies, who the ones responsible for those wars are. Are they going to blame the Sandinist revolution on Cuba? Why not blame the situation that existed there on the Somozist tyranny so closely allied, historically, with the United States?

Are they going to blame Cuba for the Salvadoran revolution? It was motivated by the genocide committed throughout the history of El Salvador, the terrible social conditions, the ferocious repression exercised for decades against the people. Who was the ally of those regimes? The United States. Who supported them? Who supports the counterrevolution? Who organizes mercenary armies in Nicaragua? Who sabotaged the ports? Who practiced the worst state terrorism against that country? The United States. Who supports the systematic genocide in El Salvador? The United States.

I believe President Arias understands this also. I believe his position has been a courageous one. Actually, he has had an honorable position for his country, an independent position. He put an end to the disorder the counterrevolutionaries had established there. He put an end to the activities against Nicaragua inside his territory. He decided that they either had to give up those activities or leave the country. He has been independent. He has increased Costa Rica's prestige. My meetings with him went well, very well. They were warm. I believe we conversed with a great deal of sincerity and a high level of mutual understanding. I talked to him about this. He maintains the East-West stand, of the position of the superpowers. I frankly told him: I can assure you that Gorbachev has nothing to do with this. I can assure you that the Soviet Union has nothing to do with this, because the Soviets did not know a single Sandinist leader.

The Soviets had nothing to do with the Sandinist revolution. They had nothing to do with the Cuban revolution. We did not know a single Soviet. We never asked them for help, for weapons, for anything. We did not have the slightest contact with them. They helped us after the triumph of the revolution. They established trade and other relations with us. We are very grateful for all the solidarity they gave us after the triumph of the revolution. It would be absurd to accuse the Soviets with regard to the existence of the Cuban revolution, or the Nicaraguan revolution, or the struggle of the Salvadoran people. It is absurd. I would say that Arias is somewhat—I would say he is very—committed to this idea.

I read a statement he made—a statement he made here—and he talked again about [words indistinct] and all those things. I explained that to him with a lot of sincerity. I should say that I thought he was a sincere man, very concerned. Although we do not agree with him a hundred percent, I believe he really deserves the Nobel Prize he won. This is what I believe. It is not something that was given away to him just like that. He has struggled within the United States. He contacted the Senate and the House of Representatives opposing the financing of the cruel and unjust war, of the mercenary war. I truly have to acknowledge the merits of President Arias. [applause] I believe that the possibilities concerning our role have truly been overestimated.

[Reporter] Commander, a last concern. I wanted to have the opportunity to ask a question which deals exclusively with the youth....

[Leon, interrupting] We thank the president. I believe we have gone beyond our set time and we want to end our news conference. [applause]

[Unidentified speaker] On behalf of the Ecuadoran children who have received medical treatment in Cuba, I would like to thank you and congratulate you, Mr President [words indistinct] your government without my being a representative of any communist party here. I have been (?received) in Cuba. Many children have received treatment. In addition, I would like to say that you do have many monuments in Cuba. They are very big and tall and made of concrete. You have many of them. They are your hospitals, schools, colleges, and universities. For this, you will be reelected for many years as long as you have strength. This is the truth, dear comrade. [applause] My son has been in Cuba for 20 months. [speaker gives Castro a box and embraces him]

[Castro] Thank you very much.

[Speaker] On behalf of Pedro (?Robles) and all the Ecuadoran children. [applause]

Dominican Republic

3 Cabinet Members, Attorney General Replaced

PA1708015488 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0042 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 16 Aug (DPA)—Today Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer replaced three cabinet members and the attorney general. The changes coincided with the 2d anniversary of his administration.

The cabinet members replaced were the secretaries of foreign relations, agriculture, labor and justice. The consuls in New York and Japan were also replaced.

The Dominican president appointed Joaquin Ricardo, related to Balaguer and former Dominican consul in New York, as foreign secretary. Ricardo replaced Donald Reid Cabral, who was named secretary of state without portfolio. Reid had resigned from his post because of health problems after a 2-month stay in a U.S. clinic where he was treated for a heart ailment.

Manuel de Jesus Pina Cacerels, an agronomist, was named agriculture secretary, replacing Miguel Amezquita, who was appointed agriculture adviser to the president.

Rafael Emiliano Agramonte, an attorney, was appointed labor secretary, replacing Carlos Jose Isaias.

In one of the most controversial changes, Balaguer appointed Semiramis Olivo de Pichardo as attorney general, replacing Pura Luz Nunez. About a month ago, Nunez removed Olivo from the attorney general's position of the Santiago court of appeals.

Newsman Virgilo Alcantara, who was director of the morning newspaper HOY of Santo Domingo, was appointed consul to New York, and Oscar Monegro was named consul to Japan, which is considered to be one of the principal Dominican consulates.

Presidential palace sources hinted that new changes may be announced tomorrow.

Haiti

10 Youths Reportedly Killed in Artibonite

FL1608224188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Some 10 youths were reportedly killed Sunday afternoon in (Labadie), which is part of the Commune of Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite. These youths belong to the (Labadie) Youth Movement, which was celebrating its anniversary on Sunday. The Youth Movement was to have celebrated the anniversary on 14 July but had to reschedule the reflection day planned for 14 August due to the death of the group's lawyer, Mr Lafontant Joseph.

The first witnesses said Prefect Baguidy Grand-Pierre and a team of soldiers simply showed up at the end of the day, as the youth were playing and eating. The witness said the prefect and soldiers opened fire on them like a hunter shooting at game, and that some 10 people were killed.

A second witness gave the names of four people that he saw fall: (Donny Acceus), (Berson Etienne), (Alex Alexandre), and (Armand Louismond). This witness stated that he was busy running and was unable to notice what other damage was being done. This same witness, who was speaking in the name of the population of Petite Riviere, called on human rights organization authorities in Port-au-Prince to go out to Petite Riviere to see for themselves what happened out there.

Information Ministry officials were contacted, but they were unable to give us any information about what had happened. Ministry officials don't know. It seems that even the minister did not know anything about this—despite the fact that this report has been circulating since Sunday night. [passage omitted]

Government Investigates

FL1608225188 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpts] There was a bloody incident Sunday afternoon in (Labadie). According to witnesses, approximately 10 young people were killed and several others wounded in (Labadie), the third communal section of Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite. These witnesses say that soldiers wearing olive green uniforms and armed civilians opened fire on a youth gathering being held by the (Labadie) Youth Movement. Four dead have been formally identified, but other sources report that there were some 10 people killed.

More than 300 people were gathered in (Labadie) on Sunday afternoon to celebrate the movement's 2d anniversary when these soldiers and armed civilians opened fire on the participants without warning. According to a member of the group, the area is being guarded militarily and several area youths have now gone underground.

An investigating committee sent by the military government arrived at the site yesterday afternoon. The committee is made up of the military officer responsible for the area, a magistrate, and a justice of the peace. It has decided to close down the homemaking center set up by the youth movement. [passage omitted]

According to witnesses, the local prefect and a section chief, Mr (Esperand Charles), who is a rural police officer and a member of the Armed Forces, participated in the attack.

We note that the (Labadie) Youth Movement is an association affiliated to Copol, which is the Coordinating Body of People's Organizations of the Artibonite.

Further Details on Shooting

FL1608230588 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpts] At the beginning of this newscast we reported incidents last weekend in (Labadie), third rural section of Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite. [passage omitted] Here is the reportage from our correspondent in the area, (Louramond Jean-Pierre):

[(Jean-Pierre)] [Passage omitted] Indeed, there was shooting and four people were killed during a ceremony organized by the members of the (Labadie) Youth Movement. Present at the ceremony was Mr Serges Desroches, a member (?who) participated in the ceremony and who was able to escape before the shooting started.

According to the police in Petite Riviere, who were not present but who conducted an investigation following the incident, it was unidentified (?armed civilians) who fired into the crowd. Staff Sergeant Lesage, citing witnesses to the ceremony, reported that Mr Desroches, a member of the KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity], made the crowd yell "Long live the communists" several times. It was at that moment that the shooting was heard. That is what the sergeant told us. The four people killed are (Armand Louismond), (Donny Acceus), (Alex Alexandre), and (Berson Etienne), who (?was) buried yesterday. No one was wounded; only these four people were killed.

As for the report that Prefect Baguidy Grand-Pierre was at the head of this commando, [words indistinct] said that the prefect has been sick for the past week; therefore, he could not have led the commando. The police in Petite Riviere (?also affirmed) this. Sgt Lesage said that the prefect was sick and that the district commander had gone to the site of the incident in his car. The Petite Riviere police stated that based on these facts, the prefect cannot be implicated in this incident.

As for the prefect, when we contacted him, he refused to make any statements. He said, and we quote: Based on the experience I have had with the Haitian press, I know that the press is corrupt. That is why I will not make any statement because even if I did, the press would lie. Nothing the press says is ever true. Thus only time will provide the answer. That is what the prefect said to us.

Also, we report that Saint-Marc development adviser Mr (Pierre Hugouin) is to make initial contact with the population of Saint-Marc today at city hall.

Jamaica

Seaga Announces New IMF Stand-By Credit

FL1708012088 Bridgetown CANA in English 2351 GMT 16 Aug 88

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 16, CANA—On Tuesday Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga announced a new 114 million dollar U.S. stand-by credit agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that largely underpins the conservative economic policies of recent years while providing a cautious opening to cheaper credit. The agreement is for 14 months, starting in September.

The significant new element in the agreement is a 2 percent cut in interest on savings, lowering what banks now pay to 13 percent and raising expectations for a reduction in lending rates.

High interest rates up to 25 percent on loans has been a major complaint of the business sector which has strongly petitioned the Seaga administration for reductions. But Seaga warned that while the next move was to establish a market-determined interest rate structure, his government would be ready to step in to prevent a surge of demand that would undermine the exchange rate of the Jamaican dollar.

"In short, while downward movement of interest rates is to be expected, upward movements cannot be ruled out to suppress demand if the press proves too strong," Seaga told parliament. "This is why we proceed gradually and with caution."

The Jamaican dollar has, since late 1985, hovered at around 5.50 for one U.S. dollar.

The latest IMF credit—the 4th since Seaga came to office in 1980—replaced a U.S. 150 million dollar credit that ended in May. And according to Seaga, it represented a "fine-tuning exercise, continuing the gradual improvements of the past two years by setting still yet higher targets of performance and relaxing yet further the remaining means of control."

Seaga said that the targets include a reduction of the overall government deficit to 3.7 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) from an estimated 5.5 percent of the last fiscal year, and the deficit on the balance of payments current account from 4.5 percent to 3.1 percent.

The 10 percent ceiling on wage increases enforced under the previous agreement remains intact as part of the efforts to curtail demand and hold down inflation.

Inflation is projected to be at 8 percent at the end of the fiscal year. Additionally, the balance of payments is expected to show a surplus of U.S. 180 million dollars at the end of the fiscal year, about the same level of fiscal 1987-88.

"We are no longer dealing with a sick economy," Seaga said. "The crisis is over."

Jamaica's economic recovery was at a stage, he said, where it required "less push and more pull."

"There is no room for tinkering, experimenting, mismanagement or relaxation of the prudent levels of expenditure," Seaga said.

St Lucia

Compton Escapes Serious Injury in Car Accident

FL1708014188 Bridgetown CANA in English 2243 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Aug 16, CANA—Prime Minister John Compton escaped serious injury when his car was involved in a collision with a government vehicle on the Choc road, one mile outside the city.

Compton's vehicle was thrown off the road, and sustained extensive damage including a shattered windscreen. The Prime Minster appeared extremely shaken after the accident, an eyewitness said. The customs land cruiser was reportedly overtaking another vehicle when the accident occurred.

His personal secretary, John Bristol, told CANA that Compton complained later of a pain in his neck for which he would seek medical attention. Compton kept his first afternoon appointment which coincidentally involved a meeting with customs officials.

President Satisfied With Economic Pact Results

PA1508210988 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Report by Regina Aguirre on statement by President Miguel de la Madrid at the meeting of the fourth stage of the Economic Solidarity Pact at the Los Pinos presidential palace on 14 August—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Yesterday President Miguel de la Madrid said during the meeting of the fourth stage of the Economic Solidarity Pact that in August, inflation is expected to reach only 1 percent:

[De la Madrid] "During the last 3 months of the pact, accumulated inflation has been only 5.7 percent, and we expect that for August, the monthly index of about 1 percent will be maintained. This is a very encouraging figure if we take into account the situation we had back in December, and even the first months of 1988."

He said the economic and social results achieved are highly favorable, and he added:

[De la Madrid] "Austerity in the government is still in effect. I would say we have increased it since signing the pact. Fortunately, we have not had high unemployment problems, and production levels have not deteriorated."

When referring to salaries, De la Madrid stressed that one of the determining factors in the success of the economic program has been the moderation in salary demands.

[De la Madrid] "That is why at this new meeting, the government and private sector measures are designed to prevent further inflation with the resulting loss of buying power."

Cardenas Files Charges Against Bartlett Diaz

PA1608212288 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 12 Aug 88 pp 4, 6

[By Frank Levine]

[Text] Political opposition leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano—in an unprecedented move on Thursday—filed formal criminal charges against the Interior Ministry (Gobernacion) head Manuel Bartlett Diaz and the Federal Electoral Commission's Technical Secretary, Fernando Elias Calles.

The charges include abuse of authority, conspiracy to defraud the Mexican people, improper use of government employees and crimes against the administration of justice by government employees, among others.

The formal complaint was filed Thursday afternoon with Federal Attorney General Sergio Garcia Ramirez through the Cardenas's National Democratic Front (FDN) legal committee, represented by Ernesto Sanchez Aguilar. There was no comment from the Attorney General's office or from Bartlett's offices Thursday afternoon.

In an interview with THE NEWS, FDN attorney Sanchez Aguilar said: "We hope that the Attorney General's office can evaluate our case on its own merits, without prejudice for any side."

He said that the main thrust of the charges include the failure of the Electoral Commission to present the results of 24,642 ballot boxes, or 45 percent of the total number used during the July 6 elections. The results have never been presented, the complaint said, yet the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) presidential candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari has already been declared winner of the elections.

"It is an act of grave omission constituting a flagrant violation of Section 29, Article 170 of the Federal Electoral Code—which obligates the CFE to give results, ballot box by ballot box," he said.

According to the FDN, the people responsible under the law for the collection and revision of the boxes which are sent in from around the country are Bartlett Diaz and Elias Calles.

"The hiding of this information over such a long period indicates that a fraud has been fabricated. The failure to provide the information has caused grave damage to the candidates for the presidency of the Republic," the FDN said in a statement. "And the law requires that these results be made available the Sunday following election day," it added.

Although only Cardenas filed the criminal complaint, Sanchez Aguilar said that copies of the complaint have been sent to "other political candidates, including National Action Party's Manuel J. Clouthier.

"We expect that they, along with the candidates from the other political parties, will file their own additional charges," he said. He said that if convicted of the charges, Bartlett and Elias Calles can face penalties including removal from office, a ban from government employment for a period of eight years and a possible prison term of eight years.

"We are serious," he said. "The charges are serious and they will be pursued to the fullest extent of the law."

He discarded outright the possible use of the charges as "political leverage" to disarm any possible attack by the government against Cardenas.

"There has been a sinister disinformation campaign against Cardenas since the elections, including rumors that there are possible fraud charges against him—reportedly held in abeyance—stemming from the alleged misappropriation of funds while he served as Governor of the State of Michoacan.

"The rumors are completely and utterly false, and are part of a campaign to discredit Cardenas," he said.

Since the July 6 elections, Cardenas forces, as well as Clouthier and other presidential candidates, have consistently demanded the release of the ballot box returns, but to no avail. The political opposition to Carlos Salinas de Gortari refuses to recognize his victory as announced two weeks ago by the CFE, citing numerous complaints of electoral irregularities, ballot-box stuffing and intimidation of opposition observers on election day.

Last Week, Manuel J. Clouthier, also filed criminal charges against the head of the Federal Electoral Registry, Jose Newman Valenzuela, charging him with knowingly issuing credentials to deceased persons and failure to control the issue of electoral credentials, among other charges.

PRI Rejects Charges

PA1708040788 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0257 GMT 17 Aug 88

["Text" of communique issued by the PRI National Executive Council (CEN) in Mexico City on 16 August]

[Text] The political opposition has issued statements in an irresponsible manner, which is contrary to our national interests. These irresponsible statements include:

1. Lies about electoral fraud.

2. Complaints concerning the lack of information at 25,000 polling places.

3. Claims regarding the existence of major electoral deficiencies that affected the presidential election process.

4. Proposals to organize a referendum and to annul the elections.

The PRI categorically rejects this provocation and attempt to disrupt order and violate the law. We demand that the opposition abide by the law and abstain from its attempts to invalidate the legitimate victory of our presidential candidate, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and the majority of our candidates to the congress.

The PRI also reasserts its willingness to abide by the law and to continue the struggle that will reassert our victory. We reject the referendum because it is alien to the judicial process we defend. We demand that the lie about the 25,000 polling places, which the seven opposition parties had the right to supervise with up to 14 representatives against 2 PRI representatives, be stopped. The votes were counted in all of them.

The CEN also asserts that the election was a legal process scrupulously abided by, step by step, through the norms established by the Federal Electoral Code. This is the only way to judge the CEN, not by leveling charges that cannot be proven or establishing assumptions that are merely designed to discredit the CEN instead of seeking to strengthen our democratic coexistence.

Our cautious attitude should not be mistaken for weakness. The PRI remains strong and will struggle to defend its electoral victory.

Electoral College To Form Three Subcommissions

FL1608201388 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1903 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The parliamentary factions that comprise the electoral college of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies have agreed on the integration of an interparty advisory commission that supports the work of the electoral body on the 6 July elections. It will be comprised of three subcommissions for order, planning, and other criteria.

Electoral College President Juan Jose Osorio Palacios said that this agreement will facilitate the work of this body and will allow them to present this in an orderly fashion and in agreement to the rank and file republican and democratic assembly.

After more than 14 hours of debate which lasted through early this morning, the faction coordinators elected Miguel Montes, Jose Trinidad Lanz, and Rodolfo Duarte from the PRI to be presidents of the commissions.

After the agreement was reached, Palacios stressed that the representatives of all the political parties held talks during the breaks during which time the best spirit of understanding prevailed to help support the work of the electoral college. We all agreed that the presence of the 500 presumed deputies at the installations at the Legislative Palace will be a new experience in the parliamentary life of Mexico and this requires greater concerted efforts, he stressed.

Palacios, one of the principle leaders of the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM), said that in addition to integrating the 54th legislature, the goal of having the interparty advisory commission support the electoral college prevails.

The vote between the presumed deputies began near midnight, and as a result of the agreement between the parliamentary factions the commission members were unanimously elected.

In the period between the installation of the leaders of the electoral college and the approval of this agreement, a series of recesses were held at which time the coordinators of the parliamentary factions agreed on the manner in which to integrate the qualified commissions on the 6 July elections.

Costa Rica

Arias Endorses Humanitarian Aid to Nicaraguans

PA1608225088 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Report by Mario Carmona from Canton Flores, Heredia Province]

[Excerpts] Today Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez asserted that no other Latin American country has built so many houses and Costa Rica will be the first Latin American country to abolish shantytowns. President Oscar made the statement at Canton Flores, where he arrived as part of his tour to inaugurate a series of housing projects and sports installations. [passage omitted]

Arias Sanchez also referred to the Nicaraguan people's suffering because of the acute economic, political, and social crisis in that brother country. President Arias emphasized that many Nicaraguans currently have bullets in their machineguns, but have not had a cordoba—which represents food—in a long time. Therefore, they have decided to cross the border into Costa Rica seeking food.

Arias said the Nicaraguan people's economic conditions anger anyone who has even a little bit of social sensibility:

[Begin Arias recording] [Words indistinct] agree some type of humanitarian aid should be given to them, regardless of who sends it. If we are Christians, if we believe in the Gospel, and if we believe in what Christ taught us, then we cannot remain indifferent to the suffering that afflicts the soldier who should not be where he currently is. Instead, he should be working in a factory, or tilling the land, or working in a government or private office in any Nicaraguan city.

Also, 12-year-old youths who should be in school are now fighting in the mountains, starved and poor, like the soldiers on either side are. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

El Salvador

FMLN Communique on Arias Mediation Offer

PA1708012388 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0037 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command in El Salvador on 16 August]

[Text] 1. We have learned through the news media that Costa Rican President Oscar Arias is willing to help restore a dialogue to reach a political solution in El Salvador.

2. The FMLN has maintained a policy since the conflict began that advocates a permanent search for a political solution and, of course, is open to every initiative that makes the renewal and continuation of the dialogue possible.

3. We have always believed that Esquipulas II represents an adequate framework within which to work toward a resolution of the conflicts in the region, particularly in El Salvador. The Salvadoran Government's stubborn and unrealistic attitude has hindered the initiative, and it has sought the FMLN's unilateral disarmament without declaring its willingness to discuss the problems that caused the conflict.

4. In regard to President Arias' offer, we hereby announce our willingness to pursue it. We will make the necessary contacts to learn more about President Arias' offer.

[Signed] FMLN General Command: Commanders Ferman Cienfuegos, Jorge Shafick Handal, Leonel Gonzalez, Roberto Roca, and Joaquin Villalobos

El Salvador, 16 August 1988

Nicaragua

Ortega on Reagan Speech, Religion in Country

PA1608134588 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0320 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Statement by President Daniel Ortega during a "Face the People" program at the Asuncion Church in Managua—live, broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] ...At this very moment, they are holding their convention and Mr Reagan is speaking. He is talking about his economic and political successes; he is saying: We rebuilt our Armed Forces, we freed Grenada from the communists, and we helped restore democracy on that island. We dealt a firm blow against Libyan terrorism; we have seen democracy prosper in 90 percent of Latin America; the Soviets have agreed to withdraw from Afghanistan; and the bloody war between Iran and Iraq is coming to an end. For the first time in 8 years, there is hope for peace in southeastern Africa; Cuban forces have agreed to withdraw from the region's countries. During the 2,765 days of our government, not a single inch of land has fallen into the hands of communists. That is what Mr Reagan is saying. His speech is nothing more than a justification for crime, terrorism, and ignoring international law.

The U.S. action in Grenada broke every international guideline and law. It was a criminal action; it was a terrorist action, as was the U.S. action against Libya when they tried to murder Al-Qadhdhafi. That was a criminal, terrorist action. When they say that not a single

inch of land has fallen into communist hands during their 2,765 days in power, they are simply ignoring the real situation experienced by the world's peoples.

President Reagan is trying to ignore the fact that there are thousands of South African kilometers where apartheid is being practiced; in doing so, President Reagan is opposing the South African people's struggle for freedom and their determination to achieve independence. President Reagan has not mentioned the thousands of square kilometers they have helped defend in order to perpetuate injustice and the oppression of the peoples, colonialism, racial discrimination, and segregation. President Reagan does not speak of the fact that for the past few years, the United States has been South Africa's main ally, that the United States has been against the just demands made by the South African people, a people who are determined to be free.

President Reagan has not admitted the fact that the United States has been protecting the Pinochet government in Chile or that they have sent weapons to many countries around the world in order to defend unjust and oppressive governments and systems. No, he will not admit to that.

Reagan does not say anything about the crimes he committed against the Nicaraguan people by ignoring international law. It has been reported in Washington that Reagan admitted to the Irangate investigators that in April 1985 he persuaded a Central American president to deliver a load of arms to the contras while a U.S. congressional ban on such aid was still in effect. Knowledgeable sources feel that the country was Honduras. This was not reported by ANN; it was reported by UPI.

Reagan does not mention the crimes he has committed against mankind and the Nicaraguan people. On the contrary, he has tried to justify all those criminal actions that violate human rights, freedom, justice, and the peoples' sovereignty. However, this has been the nature of Reagan's administration. That administration has a few more months in power, until January 1989. Until 20 January 1989, we are going to have Reagan threatening Nicaragua. Reagan has not concluded his speech yet.

He is still talking about the U.S. economy, about the U.S. economy's bonanza, about how he rid the country of inflation. However, he does not speak of the U.S. debt. He does not talk about the fact that all this was done by cutting the budgets for social programs; he does not mention the fact that this was done at the cost of defending an unfair international economic situation, an economic situation that only serves to oppress developing countries. [passage omitted]

We have carried out the revolution in Nicaragua without ignoring the reality of Christianity. I think the revolution was based on this reality. I must say that given the strength of Christianity here in Nicaragua, there is an opportunity to show that the church can support change. I say the church as an institution, because when we speak of the church—and we have already discussed this with some comrades—we speak of the people, because without the people there cannot be a church. There can be bishops and priests, but without the people there is no church. It is the people with their strength that make the church. Therefore, the church has been with the revolution. If we are asked whether the church is with the revolution we have to say yes, the church has been with the revolution. We make a distinction between the church as the people and the church as an institution. As an institution, there have been differences and different attitudes. For example, in the 1960's you could count on your fingers the priests who opposed the Somoza dictatorship and the imperialist oppression. As a result, in the religious schools, such as the Salesiano, Don Bosco, Calazanz, La Salle, Centroamerica, La Asuncion, Maria Immaculada, and Teresiano schools, in all the religious schools, we studied from schoolbooks that taught us that Somoza was an illustrious figure of our history and that Sandino was a bandit. No one was concerned about this. The priests taught us that. The institutional church taught that. The Vatican accepted that.

There was no concern about education in Nicaragua. That meant there was good education in Nicaragua. There was no criticism of education in Nicaragua. That meant that the institutional church was very satisfied with education in Nicaragua. Education was obviously regulated by Somoza's Education Ministry. It taught the students that Somoza was a champion and hero, while Sandino was a bandit and criminal. That education was accepted for many years.

Things began to gradually change in Nicaragua, however, and some priests and clergymen began to get involved in the FSLN's struggle. This the reason why in our country there has not been a clash between the church as the people or religion itself and the revolution. Here, as in Tanzania, religion stopped being the opium of the masses. With Somoza, religion was the opium of the masses. That type of Christianity was obviously unacceptable to us. With the revolution, religion stopped being the opium of the masses. Since the time when the FSLN began its struggle against Somoza's dictatorship, Christians were the base of the FSLN. Priests and the church joined the FSLN's struggle. As a result, religion ceased to be the opium of the masses. [passage omitted]

I have met on several occasions with all of the bishops here in Nicaragua, and they know and say that we have no plans to turn the Nicaraguan people into atheists.

There is a political bias on the clergy's part, however. When a Christian, Catholic Sandinist fighter dies and his family asks the parish priest to say mass for him, the priest refuses, claiming that the fighter was a Sandinist, a communist. The priest thus takes a political stand, not a religious or Christian stand.

We have even made the effort of letting priests become part of the revolutionary government's leadership, because there are priests like Father D'Escoto and Fernando Cardenal in our cabinet. What government that seeks to promote atheism would place a priest in charge of education? We launched the literacy campaign, and Fernando headed it. He now heads the Education Ministry.

In our talks with the bishops we have mentioned all of these examples and have asked them to take a stand that would place them over and above our differences with the United States, which have led to a confrontation here with some political groups that advocate U.S. intervention. We have asked that they take a stand in favor of peace and unity and that, in any case, they condemn the U.S.-sponsored crimes we suffer. They will then have the moral authority to criticize the revolutionary government. Any criticism aimed at only one side is lopsided. We have even asked: What kind of evidence would you (?need) to believe that the Nicaraguan revolution is in favor of the people? Because if the revolution is for the people, it would not deprive the people of their religious beliefs. On the contrary.

There is distrust, however. It is nurtured by the U.S. policy of aggression, because of which many still do not accept the fact of the Nicaraguan revolution's existence and still harbor the hope that Reagan will be able to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. They ask: Why seek understanding with a revolution that can be destroyed? It is best to reach agreement with the powerful who have the ability to destroy this revolution. Some of the clergymen say: This revolution generates distrust by the very fact of being a revolution, and I find it easier to reach an understanding with a Somoza, with Somozism, than with Sandinism. [passage omitted]

We are part of this Christian people. We have been trained in Christianity. We find no contradiction between Sandino, Christ, Marx, or Che. We find no contradiction. How can we, in our talks with the bishops, convince them that we do not plan to end the church as an institution or to end religion? It seems there is fear that we want to end the church as an institution and to create a new church, when in reality there is only one church, which is made up of the people. [passage omitted]

That supposedly proves that Sandinism wants to do away with religion. The fact that we have ministers who are priests—I have fought for them—is considered a tactic so that later we can do away with religion. But if there had not been a single one of those ministers at the forefront of the revolutionary government, that would have proved that ours is an atheistic government which does not include a single priest. If I or any leader of the revolution participate in a religious activity because we feel motivated to participate and to share in this activity with the people, this is just considered a tactic so that later we can do away with religion. If we do not attend, it proves that we are atheists [laughter] and that we want to do away with religion. So there is no way—we have not yet found the way—to get some members of the church hierarchy to trust us, to have faith in us.

However, we are satisfied with the Christians' participation in the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. We are satisfied with the participation of the church—God's people, in other words—in the process of change under way in Nicaragua. The Christians in Nicaragua participate in all of the revolution's tasks. They participate in defense, in production, and in social services. Nicaraguan Christians are there whenever there is a need to defend this process of social and economic transformation.

I wanted to reflect upon this tonight in the presence of Comrade [Julius] Nyerere, for we have met here to partially fulfill his wishes. There is really only a small representation here. We could fit into this room, and still have room left over, with all those who call themselves Christians but who really do not act like Christians. Those Christians would all fit into this room, and there would still be plenty of room left over. That is why I say that we are only partially fulfilling your [Nyerere's] wishes to meet Nicaraguan Christians, because all those Christians would not fit into this room. They are all over Nicaragua. All over Nicaragua, the Christian force expresses itself through the process of revolutionary change. It is a representation of this force which has had this opportunity to share this night, this historic experience with you.

Our two peoples are separated by an enormous distance, speak different languages, but yet share a common denominator. We have common goals. The miracle of our meeting here has been made possible by the revolution in Tanzania. If there had been no revolution in Tanzania, we would, of course, not be gathered here with a representative of the Tanzanian people; and if there had not been a revolution in Nicaragua, this meeting could not have taken place either.

This meeting is made possible by the power of our peoples, who demand social, political, and economic transformations and who respect themselves, their faith, and their religious convictions. We are thus able to meet in a Managua attacked by U.S. imperialism, in a temple where we have gathered representatives from the main church groups and church leaders of different denominations, including Catholics. We have also had the chance to greet and meet again with a priest who has been with the FSLN from the very beginning.

We thank Comrade Nyerere for having come to Nicaragua to meet with us at a time that is so decisive for our people's future, a future closely bound to the future of your people, as you well said upon receiving the Order of Sandino. Thank you very much.

Ortega on Honduras, Possibility of U.S. Talks
PA1608214988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1950 GMT 16 Aug 88

[News conference held by President Daniel Ortega with unidentified reporters following a farewell ceremony for former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] [Words indistinct] any new elements?

[Ortega] Just the Honduran reply. Honduras refuses to accept Nicaragua's proposal to establish a multinational force at the border area. The condition that country imposes is that Nicaragua withdraw the suit against Honduras at the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. That idea runs counter to the logic of international law. The only tool available to states to settle disputes is the ICJ. Otherwise, we would only have the use of force. In sum, Honduras is trying to keep us from using a legal instrument, such as the ICJ.

[Reporter] Commander Ortega, is Nicaragua's suit at the ICJ related to an additional trade embargo of U.S. companies? Is that embargo related to Nicaragua's actions?

[Ortega] Our suit at the ICj is related to the entire U.S. policy of terrorism against our country. For that reason, Nicaragua introduced all the appropriate evidence. The court issued a ruling. We are currently demanding the minimum imdemnity payments to Nicaragua for the damage caused by the unfair and dirty war waged by the United States.

[Reporter] Mr President, U.S. presidential candidate Bush said he would be prepared to meet with you. This is what a U.S. media source reported. How do you feel about that?

[Ortega] Bush added certain conditions. Talks must be without conditions. We are not imposing conditions on Bush or Reagan related to the domestic situation in the United States. We should meet to discuss matters related to security. We should find ways to resolve that problem in order to normalize relations, but without any sort of conditions.

Calero on Ortega Border Force, Talks Remarks
PA1608204188 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Interview with Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) leader Adolfo Calero by Rafael Mojica Obregon in Miami; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mojica] On Sunday, THE MIAMI HERALD published an Associated Press report quoting Daniel Ortega as saying that he was willing to accept an international force that would guarantee a security zone between the Nicaraguan and Honduran borders to avoid a conflict between the two countries due to the presence of Nicaraguan rebels in that area. What can you tell us about Ortega's proposal, Doctor?

[Calero] First of all, the Nicaraguan Resistance is present throughout Nicaragua: on the southern border, on the northern border, in the center, the east, the west—everywhere. In other words, if he is going to seek international forces to guarantee security, more international forces will be needed so that Nicaragua itself may be guaranteed as a security zone, because Nicaraguans are living under extreme persecution and extreme repression.

We have seen how 43 distinguished politicians, workers, and laborers—who were jailed on 10 July—have been sentenced. We have seen how Ortega continues to repress Radio Catolica and prevents it from going on the air. We have also seen how Ortega has started attacking Costa Rican President Arias and how Ortega himself has said that they have reached the limit of their flexibility. That he says this is very meaningful, because if his flexibility amounts to the closing down of the media, if his flexibility means to increase the number of political prisoners in Nicaraguan jails—some 10,000 already—if his flexibility means to continue repressing domestic opposition, if his flexibility means to continue starving all Nicaraguans, then we do not know the outcome of this big crisis that is overwhelming Ortega.

He called together all the foreign ambassadors and scolded them, saying that they should not be ambassadors of their countries but ambassadors for Nicaragua, and he asked that they simply ignore the concern and questions those foreign countries have about the Nicaraguan situation. This means that the Sandinists are no longer able to rule; they are desperate; they are asking for foreign forces to take charge of the situation in Nicaragua.

[Mojica] Dr Calero, Ortega also announced that his government decided to maintain the cease-fire until 31 August and stressed that a new round of peace talks with the guerrillas could be held in Managua or Washington.

[Calero] We had already (?communicated) before he suggested Managua, and prior to his consideration of Washington. It is surprising that he did not suggest Moscow. He wants to keep the USSR out of the picture, even though this situation has been brought about by the USSR through the sending of weapons and ammunition from the USSR and Cuba. We could also ask that the talks be held in Moscow, the same way he has suggested Washington. That is childish and ridiculous.

They know very well that the talks cannot be held in Managua, because there the Sandinists' behavior has been very threatening; they restricted RN delegates and kept us as prisoners. It is absurd to think that we would return to Managua under those conditions. On the other hand, President Arias has offered San Jose, Costa Rica, as a meeting place, and we are willing to hold them in Costa Rica.

Former Charge in FRG Requests Political Asylum

LD1608161888 Hamburg DPA in German 1530 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Today Carlos Bendana, the former Nicaraguan charge d'affaires in Bonn, asked the federal Government [of Germany] for political asylum. The Foreign Ministry confirmed that the diplomat has given the appropriate application to an official of the Foreign Ministry's political department.

In a letter from Bendana to Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, which has become known to DPA, 42-year-old Bendana stated that Managua's current ambassador in Bonn, Hernan Estrada, has accused him of having contacts with the U.S. CIA and with the Nicaraguan contras. These accusations represent a serious threat to his personal safety and to that of his family.

The diplomat, who was dismissed from the embassy in May, gave an assurance that he has always represented the government's position and supports the principle of democracy and political pluralism in Nicaragua. Bendana studied philosophy in Madrid, was awarded two literary prizes in Spain, and was also a professor at universities in Colombia.

PSN Abandons Leninism, Adopts Social Democracy

PA1708022288 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The Nicaraguan Socialist Party [PSN] has made an ideological turnabout and has abandoned the Leninist doctrine it upheld for more than 40 years to adopt social democracy. This information was provided today by Hortensia Rivas Zeledon, member of the PSN Central Committee and of the party's Political Commission. The PSN was a former ally of the governing FSLN.

Yesterday the Central Committee reviewed its Marxist-Leninist program and decided to change its ideological path to face the current situation. Rivas explained that the party has deserted Leninism because Leninist parties are pursuing another ideological current, Stalinism. She said that so-called parties have turned away from pure Marxism, turning it into a thing of the past.

According to observers, CPSU ideological deviations and errors that are being admitted by Mikhail Gorbachev, as well as the failure of Sandinism in Nicaragua, contributed to the Nicaraguan socialists adopting this decision, which has shocked Nicaraguan political circles. This is the first time that a Nicaraguan socialist party has changed its ideology, a fact that according to political observers represents a milestone in the political history of the followers of Marx and Lenin in this country. [passage omitted]

The PSN initiated its relations with Soviet communists in 1960, but the ties were cut following the Sandinist victory in July 1979. The PSN is now estranged from the CPSU, Rivas Zeledon said. [passage omitted]

PSN leader Luis Sanchez Sancho has said that perestroyka had much to do with his party's decision to give up, once and for all, the Leninist ideology. He said that the need to adapt to the new situations that have emerged in today's world is something that affects socialist countries and so-called socialist parties alike. This is what Sanchez Sancho said in regard to the social democratic line:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] We do not believe that war is the sole cause of the economic crisis. The war is rather a consequence of an FSLN social and political plan that is not viable, that is not in line with the true Nicaraguan situation, and that has been rejected by all Nicaraguans. It is therefore necessary to redefine the path of the Nicaraguan revolution. [passage omitted]

The Socialist Party remains a socialist party. We have been calling for a genuine democratic process since the days of the Somozist dictatorship. [passage omitted]

We believe that our political guidelines and ideological positions must be adapted to the true situation in our country with the understanding that socialism, viewed as a plan for economic development and prosperity, can function only in a climate of peace, and this means a climate of liberty and real democracy.

To promote this we are calling for the creation of another central committee within the next few months to readjust some points of our program and our declaration of principles to promote the democratization of Nicaraguan society. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Panama

Presidency Communique on Guaranteeing Order

PA1608225788 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 2201 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Communique issued by the Presidency in Panama City—date not given]

[Text] The Press Secretariat of the Presidency, duly authorized, informs citizens in general and especially government employees that:

1. Decree No 23, signed on 16 March 1988, is in effect. It includes measures of public order and national security that guarantee the normal operation of government institutions providing public and basic services.

2. The paralyzation of services and activities related to national security adversely affect citizens in general and public order, thereby endangering the health and security of the Panamanian people.

3. Decree No 23, signed on 16 March 1988, authorizes the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] to turn over to the administrative or judicial authorities all those who violate public order, participate in illegal activities, or inflict damage upon or endanger the installations and the security of the people who work or who are present in government institutions related to national security. The FDP is also authorized to turn over all those who adversely affect the efficient rendering of services.

4. We inform the country that the following are national security institutions because of the activities and services they provide: the Hydraulic and Electrification Resources Institute, the National Water and Sanitation Institute, the National Institute of Telecommunications, all ports, Panama Railroads, the National Port Authority, airports, Finance Ministry collection offices, the lottery, casinos, hospital and medicine services, all health services, health centers, emergency rooms of the Social Security Fund and Health Ministry, post and telegraph offices, the Public Registry of the Government and Justice Ministry, and the Agriculture Marketing Institute.

IRHE Workers Arrested

PA1708000088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2250 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 16 Aug (ACAN - EFE)—Today between 30 and 50 workers of the state-owned Hydraulic and Electrification Resources Institute (IRHE) were arrested while attempting to cut off power to government-leaning Televisora Nacional (Channel 2), which owes more than $200,000, labor sources reported.

Riot police—known as "Dobermans"—surrounded the television installations and made the arrests.

Julio Ortega, news director of the television station, told ACAN-EFE that TV-2 was not involved in the incident.

Appoximately 10 IRHE vehicles were towed away by the police after they were abandoned by the arrested workers. Those arrested included Isaac Rodriguez, secretary general of the IRHE labor union.

This was confirmed to ACAN-EFE by Mario Espino, leader of the workers union, who reported that the workers who tried to cut off the power are part of the firm's commission in charge of detecting consumers who are delinquent in their payments and cutting off service if they do not agree to pay.

Ortega admitted that TV-2 suffered a power cut, but that it is currently on the air. Espino said the power was cut off but was later restored.

A captain in charge of halting the power cut, who chose to remain anonymous, refused to confirm the number of workers arrested, but admitted they will be taken before the authorities for investigation.

Espino said another government-owned newspaper firm, Renovacion Publishing Company, Inc., which publishes two morning newspapers and an evening newspaper, also owes "a large sum of money," but he did not specify how much.

Fernando Gaona, another labor leader, told ACAN-EFE there are 10 power distribution plants out of service, which means if there is a power outage, Panama would be in the dark for a long time.

He added the country is currently operating only with water-generated power, because the gas- and oil-operated power generating plants are also damaged.

Gaona said that despite efforts to find out, he did not know where the arrested workers were taken.

In any event, he said the police and military intelligence authorities were evasive in their answers and did not give information on those arrested.

Hours after the incident, the press secretariat of the Presidency released a communique warning that the "paralyzation of the services and activities declared to be of national security" "gravely" disrupt public order.

[Hamburg DPA in Spanish at 2317 GMT on 16 August reports that "Televisora Nacional and the Renovacion Publishing Company, Inc., which publishes the newspapers CRITICA, MATUTINO, and LA REPUBLICA, were affected" by the labor union measure.]

Argentina

Brodersohn on Trip to Japan, Talks With IMF

PY1608234688 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1954 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Aug (TELAM)—Today Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn announced that he will leave for Japan on 18 August to obtain a $400-million loan earmarked for the Argentine fishing sector.

Brodersohn will be accompanied by Daniel Marx, a Central Bank's board of directors member. During his visit, which will last until 24 August, Brodersohn will talk with officials from Eximbank and the Japanese banks. He will also negotiate the disbursement of a $375-million loan granted early this year. Brodersohn made this announcement at a press conference for foreign correspondents at the Foundation for Change Within Democracy (FUCADE) building in Buenos Aires.

Brodersohn said $100 million of the loan was already earmarked for Government Oil Deposits and that the new loan will be designed to create joint ventures for the exploitation of fishing resources and for the processing of seafood by Argentine and Japanese companies.

The finance secretary also said that he believes the negotiations with the IMF will be concluded by 5 September—when the committee of banks is scheduled to meet again—with the approval of the letter of intent that is now being drafted.

The committee of creditor banks consists of 12 banks that are the leading creditors of Argentina and which in turn represent 350 banks.

It has been learned from reliable sources that the final draft of the letter of intent is now at a standstill because the economic leadership has not been able to define the projections of the fiscal deficit for 1989 that will be included in the next budget.

The sources said that the IMF foreign financing will cover the remainder of 1988 and all of 1989 and that disagreements still prevent the signing of a letter of intent.

The letter of intent (also known as memorandum of understanding) includes 4-month goals for the fiscal deficit and for economic growth, as well as disbursements to be made by the IMF.

Commenting on the subject of disbursements, the sources said that two disbursements of $230 million each of the last stand-by loan are now overdue. Economic officials were told a few weeks ago that these disbursements will be part of the package now being negotiated and that the delay stems from the Argentine failure to comply with the fiscal goals outlined in the respective letter of intent.

The sources said these failures prevent the current negotiations from being as easy and smooth as one would desire. Sources said: We follow this principle: If the banks want to collect, they have to lend us money.

Heavy Water Spill Reported at Atucha I Plant

PY1708023488 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2010 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Aug (DYN)—Today a Buenos Aires evening newspaper reported that an accident at the Atucha I nuclear plant, which is located 100 km from Buenos Aires, caused 50 tons of heavy water to spill inside the steel and cement container that houses the reactor and the steam generator of the plant.

The accident occurred earlier this year and forced the Argentine Government to turn to the international black market, apparently to Libya or Sudan, to purchase 8 tons of heavy water, according to an article published on the front page of EL HERALDO DE BUENOS AIRES.

The article, which is signed by Osvaldo Gazzola, comments on the frequency of this type of accident at the two nuclear plants operating in Argentina: Atucha I and Embalse Rio Tercero, which is located 110 km south of the capital of Cordoba Province.

The article, which is based on information obtained from highly reliable scientific sources, notes that the spilling of 50 tons of heavy water at Atucha I did not cause any danger of contamination or a nuclear disaster like those at Three Mile Island, USA, and Chernobyl, USSR.

The newspaper says that the amount of heavy water spilled represents one-sixth of the Atucha I stock, and it caused a significant loss of approximately $15 million. A kilogram of heavy water costs $300. This figure is doubled or tripled on the international black market.

The article reports that the CNEA purchased 8 tons of heavy water on the international black market to overcome the problems caused by the accident. The 50 tons of spilled heavy water were sent abroad (possibly to the FRG) to be purified.

The newspaper makes it clear that heavy water is not radioactive in its initial form; that is, it is not contaminating but it becomes radioactive as soon as it is used—even if only once—as a coolant or moderator in the nuclear fission process.

Bolivia

Central Bank Reschedules Private Sector Debt

PY1708032688 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] According to Bolivian Central Bank sources, private sector debt to national banks will be rescheduled as of today, 16 August.

The sources said the entire debt of the private productive sector will be refinanced over a 5-year period, with 1-year grace period, at a 13 percent interest rate.

Central Bank authorities released the regulations for private banks to refinance the debt and opened a $130-million line of credit to support this program. The productive sector was supporting a heavy burden because of high interest rates that fluctuated between 24 and 36 percent, making economic reactivation impossible.

With this program, the debts, which amounted to some $150 million a year, will automatically drop to 27 percent of this amount, that is $40 million, according to Central Bank President Javier Nogales.

The productive sector will also have access to fresh lines of credit from traditional sources that at the present amount to over $150 million, including $62 million to finance capital improvements and $92 million to finance new investments.

Brazil

Sarney Rebuts Critics; Headache Continues

PY1608034088 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Aug 88 p 8

[Text] Berizal—Yesterday President Jose Sarney, speaking from Berizal, in northern Minas Gerais State, responded to those critics claiming that he is solely responsible for the country's situation. "Let us assume that I am guilty, but who could claim to be not guilty?" he asked. "Perhaps those who contracted our foreign debt, those who for centuries kept our country in such a state that it exploded in my hands. Those who could also claim to be not guilty are perhaps those who are always attacking me because the people are patient," Sarney said.

Sarney delivered a impromptu speech during a dedication ceremony of facilities of the Water and Sanitation Company and of a television tower in Berizal, a small town located 1,000 km from Belo Horizonte. He concluded his speech with a promise: He will leave the government with a healthy economy and he will conclude the democratic transition. He said his critics of today "will be defeated, resentful, and crestfallen tomorrow."

Minas Governor Newton Cardoso invited Sarney "to rest and to exchange information" during the weekend in his Varejao ranch. Cardoso also attended the ceremony while all entrances to the ranch were guarded by military police personnel armed with Winchester 66 rifles to stop strangers. Cardoso confirmed that Sarney is ill, that he had another headache. Sarney's headache was so acute yesterday afternoon that he was not sure whether he was going to return to Brasilia today.

New Agrarian, S & T Ministers Installed

PY1708020088 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] This afternoon at Planalto Palace President Jose Sarney installed Agrarian Reform Minister Leopoldo Bessone and Science and Technology Minister Ralph Biasi.

In his speech at the ceremony, the president stressed the administrative qualities of the two new ministers, and he expressed hope for their success.

President Sarney said that science and technology is now very important for the country's future because the world will belong to those countries that master high technology.

[Sarney] "I must repeat what I have always said, that the future world will consist of small or large nations. It will be the world of those countries that master technology and of those countries that depend on imported technologies."

Thanking former Science and Technology Minister Luiz Henrique and former Agrarian Reform Minister Jader Barbalho for their work, Sarney recalled Jader Barbalho's difficult job of satisfying landowners and farm workers.

[Sarney] "He obviously had to deal with difficult times. He had to adapt the new law so as to satisfy both landlords and workers, in compliance with the government's desire to seek harmony in the agrarian sector."

New Agrarian Reform Minister Leopoldo Bessone intends to accelerate the pace of agrarian reform by bringing development to the rural sector.

[Bessone] "I intend to increase settlements because I am concerned that agrarian development should give rural workers and their families the appropriate conditions for survival with dignity. I intend to give them assistance from the first planting to the first harvest."

Bessone also thanked the Minas Gerais Governor Newton Cardoso for having proposed his name to President Sarney.

New Science and Technology Minister Ralph Biasi has stated that science and technology are responsible for economic and social development, as well as for the solution to most national problems.

[Biasi] "The goal of the people's well-being, the improvement of the people's living standards, and national sovereignty will not be achieved without the development of science and technology. Moreover, our efforts in this regard will be useless if we cannot increase budget resources, involvement of the private sector, basic research, training of human resources, and post graduate scholarships. These have already been expanded considerably in compliance with President Sarney's guidelines."

Biasi recalled the words of President Sarney that knowledge is the path to real democracy.

Deputy Roberto Cardoso Alves will take office tomorrow at the Industry and Commerce Ministry. Governor Jose Aparecido will take over the Culture Ministry only when the problem affecting the designation of Senator Alexandre Costa as governor of the Federal District is resolved.

The Senate has approved Costa's appointment as Federal District governor. The problem is whether the Constituent Assembly leadership will agree to allow him to hold the post of governor without giving up his Senate seat.

Ministers Say No Layoffs Due To Budget Cuts

PY1708031288 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Reaffirming previous reports released by Planalto Palace, today government leader in the Chamber of Deputies Carlos Sant'Anna, Planning Minister Joao Batista de Abreu, and Administration Minister Aluizio Alves promised that public employees will not be laid off.

According to Sant'Anna, budget cuts within the federal government will not result in layoffs of public employees. He made this statement at the end of the ceremony marking the installation of the new ministers of agrarian reform and science and technology. [passage omitted]

Planning Minister Joao Batista de Abreu, who was also present at the installation ceremony, said that the government does not intend to dismiss public employees. [passage omitted]

Administration Minister Aluizio Alves does not believe employees will be laid off. He said that some government organizations could be eliminated as a result of the government decision to cut the country's budget, but that employees could be transferred to other organizations. [passage omitted]

New Constitution May Be Ready in September

PY1608134088 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes has announced that the greatest effort will be made in August to finish the voting on the constitutional draft. Guimaraes has explained that this effort will be stepped up from 25 to 29 August and that the new constitution could be ready in September.

[Begin Guimaraes recording] We have 5 days available, that is, from 25 to 29 August. The new constitution could be ready for September.

I think that there are 655 amendments to be made. At an average of 30, 40, or 50 amendments per day, we will be able to end the voting on a new constitution by the end of the week, that is, by 25 August. If we meet this deadline, we shall be close to it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Chile

Agreement With Peru on Promoting Trade

PY1608211488 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Aug 88 p C-1

[Text] Yesterday Chile and Peru signed a joint statement in which they decided to promote trade between the two countries on a priority basis.

The document was signed at the Foreign Ministry by Vice Foreign Minister Brigadier General Ernesto Videla and by the president of the Peruvian Foreign Trade Institute, Enrique Cornejo Ramirez.

The document stresses "the excellent level of relations between the two countries."

The document also expresses satisfaction with the continuous improvements in ties of cooperation and friendship and with the interest in strengthening those ties in a climate of mutual respect and understanding.

The two countries agreed to explore and promote the establishment of joint industrial projects, especially in the fields of textiles, metalworking, fisheries, agriculture, and livestock.

The two countries also decided to intensify the exchange of information and statistical publications regarding foreign trade so as to allow a better exploitation of the potential markets.

The two countries also decided to increase commercial ties through the expansion of ALADI's Partial Agreement No 28 and to carry out the appropriate negotiations in November, in Montevideo.

The two countries also agreed to support actions resulting from the Chilean-Peruvian talks held in Santiago between 5 and 9 July 1988 by adopting measures to increase trade between the two countries and to improve joint access to third-party markets.

Due to the increase in protectionist measures on the international market, the two countries decided to improve bilateral consultations in order to foresee difficulties and to adopt actions to defend common interests, especially if restrictive measures are adopted against copper exports.

Cornejo Ramirez, who will return to Lima today, held meetings with the foreign minister, the economy minister, and Central Bank Vice President Alfonso Serrano, among other officials.

PRC Vice Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

PY1708024088 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] This afternoon PRC Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Zhu Qizhen arrived in Chile. Upon his arrival, he said: We are two friendly countries.

Zhu was met at the airport by his Chilean counterpart, Ernesto Videla, and by the PRC ambassador.

Zhu, who will stay in Chile until 19 August, will meet with several Chilean officials and will also visit [words indistinct].

Zhu said his visit to Chile is designed to exchange ideas on international and bilateral topics.

Communists Reaffirm Support for No Vote

PY1708032688 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Communist spokesmen have reaffirmed their strategy of disrupting the current institutional order and support for the no vote at the upcoming plebiscite.

Communist spokesmen stated that an election oriented concept alone will not be instrumental in bringing about democracy; they propose institutional disruption through pressure, mass mobilization, and a nationwide strike.

Finally, satisfaction was conveyed about the upcoming congress designed to create the Sole Central Organization of Chilean Workers.

Communist Youth Urges Allies To Vote No

PY1608231088 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 Aug 88 p C-2

[Text] Yesterday leaders of the Communist Youth called upon all military youths and sympathizers of that organization to register en masse in the electoral books to vote "no" in the next plebiscite. The leaders also urged the youth to join the commands for the "no vote" in the various districts of the country.

In a press conference at the United Left office, Patricia Torres, leader of the Communist Youth, read a public statement in which the Communist Youth calls for everyone "to continue developing a great movement of women that will join the general democratic movement, in which all those who are about to end dictatorship will participate."

Torres called on people to organize and to carry out a "house-to-house" visit to women bringing them the opposition's message.

She added that her organization has joined with all opposition political forces in demanding guarantees regarding the plebiscite. She added that her organization will also participate in electoral control work during the plebiscite.

Rosa Maria Eitel, President of CODEJU [National Commission for Children's Rights], sister of Karin Eitel, the Catholic University student who is facing trial, urged all members of the Armed Forces to vote "no."

Youth Movement Planning 20 Aug No Vote Rally

PY1608213688 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Aug 88 p C-4

[Text] Yesterday the Youth Movement for the "No Vote," an umbrella organization consisting of 14 opposition political youth organizations, called on all Santiago youths to attend a public rally slated for 20 August on Guillermo Mann Avenue, in Nunoa district.

The Communist Youth organization has publicly endorsed the rally and has stated that the young Communists will participate in the rally following the rules laid down by its organizers.

Yerko Ljubetic (Christian Democratic Party youth branch) and Alejandro Goic (Almeyda-led Socialist faction), national coordinators of the Youth Movement for the "No Vote," have announced in a press conference that the rally was authorized by the chief of the Santiago State of Emergency Zone. They complained, however, that authorities did not authorize them to hold the rally at the Mapocho Station, where a rally was staged last month by youth groups supporting the "yes vote."

Ljubetic and Goic reiterated that the mass rally organized by the youth groups will be entirely peaceful.

Guillermo Sherping, spokesman for the Communist Youth, said: "We stated earlier and reaffirm today that the young Communists have always responded to this type of call following the agreements we have signed."

"In rallies like this, care must be taken to isolate those who want to perform acts of provocation, which would jeopardize the mobilization. The objective of this rally should be that of bringing millions of youths to the streets. The entire youth movement today supports this view," the Communist spokesman said.

FPMR's Buschmann on Strategy, Activities

PY1508213788 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Report on interview with Sergio Buschmann, Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) leader, by unidentified TV LATINA reporter—date and place not given]

[Passage omitted] Sergio Buschmann is very much wanted in Chile. He was arrested in August 1986 when he took a large number of weapons for the FPMR into the country. One year later, he spectacularly managed to escape from the Valparaiso penitentiary and the government of General Pinochet offered a 5-million peso reward for his capture.

Nevertheless, Buschmann, who is a well-known professional actor, remained secretly in Chile until his departure and subsequent extensive international tour.

Buschmann, who is very much wanted in Chile, has granted this exclusive interview to TV LATINA, without hiding anything.

[Begin Buschmann recording, in progress] ...because we were absolutely convinced that vis-a-vis this dictatorsip and out of dignity we could no longer continue with the traditional methods of struggle. We respect these methods and we respect anyone who does anything against the dictatorship.

However, we adopted another method, a superior method, involving the task of military training of the people for the people.

At that time, we did not have a choice. Furthermore, we did not intend to become people's soldiers or specifically guerrillas. We did not even have a special calling for the armed struggle.

In general, our efforts have been the result of political developments, a sort of political responsibility.

It would have been irresponsible of us not to adopt this method because we felt responsible for making a historic mistake and for drawing up a plan with empty hands. [end recording]

Sergio Buschmann was arrested in Chile after the 1973 military coup.

In 1977, he managed to clandestinely leave the country and go to Sweden as a political refugee. Later, he went to Nicaragua where he worked in theater and in television and participated in his first fighting as a member of the batallion of the Nicaraguan artists militia.

Upon his return to Chile in 1983, Buschmann resumed his activities as a professional actor.

[Begin Buschmann recording] In 1985, I was already involved in direct military actions. I was responsible for a unit of combatants in Santiago's main district. All this, while I continued working in theater at 0700 and appearing on television from 1930 to 2000—on a daily television series.

This is why I also think that I love my profession so much because it has always been an excellent cover for my activities as an urban guerrilla. It was an excellent cover because it is very hard for the military to understand how can one work in the theater and also shoot at them.

The guerrilla actions were carried out at about 2100 or 2200. In other words, I was always able to arrive in time; I never missed any of the actions carried out by the units. I always joined them.

I recorded the soap operas in the morning. I did my job, finished it at 0900, and I left at 1500. This went on until December 1985.

In October 1985, I was entrusted with the most beautiful task I have ever carried out: I had to smuggle into Chile the weapons that would free Chile.

I moved to the north on 20 or 21 December 1985. We operated until August 1986—8 months.

Part of the arms cache was discovered and we saved the rest. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ecuador

Borja Urges 'Moderation' in Relations With U.S.

PA1708000988 Paris AFP in Spanish 1754 GMT 16 Aug 88

[By AFP special correspondent Yves Claude Llorca]

[Text] Quito, 16 Aug (AFP)—During his first meeting with French newsmen since he took over on 11 August, new Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja advocated moderation in the economic field and in relations with the United States and Latin American countries.

"I do not believe our relations with the United States will deteriorate. We export 60 percent of our products to that country," Borja said, answering in French.

Borja, who was asked about Managua and Quito resuming diplomatic relations and about the warm welcome the Ecuadoreans gave to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Cuban leader Fidel Castro, said: "We always defended the principle that it is necessary to respect the ideologies of the other governments, and this does not prevent us from discussing points of common interest."

In the economic arena, he emphasized that "we do not believe good results can be obtained from state ownership."

The new Social Democratic president emphasized that according to him, "the only system that is applicable in Ecuador is a mixed economy" where private enterprises operate parallel to the public institutes in the fields of petroleum, transportation, and cement.

The Ecuadoran president—who met shortly before his inauguration with Pierre Mauroy, former French prime minister and first secretary of the Socialist Party, to discuss the economic and social situation in Latin American—said that the his country's economic system needs a "stabilization and reactivation" program.

Ecuador must "increase domestic demand and stimulate a reaction from the productive sector," Borja said, adding that an "employment policy" is the most efficient means for doing this. It is forecast that between now and the end of this year, inflation in Ecuador will increase by 50 percent while the foreign debt currently amounts to over $10 billion, according to official figures.

"If our creditors give us better conditions, we will be able to pay our foreign debt with the proceeds of our growth," the president said.

The Quito government has not paid its debt since the March 1987 earthquake in Ecuador, which seriously damaged the country's oil pipeline, the main source of state income.

In "my inaugural speech, I clearly said that it is not that we do not want to pay (the foreign debt), but that we cannot pay it under the conditions and terms that have been imposed on us," the president pointed out.

Concerning relations between the civilian government and the Ecuadoran Army, Borja said that some members of the Army "were brought to trial and given harsh sentences." He was referring to the imprisonment of General Frank Vargas and other officers who rebelled against the policies of former President Leon Febres-Cordero (a conservative).

Vargas, who has been released, was also a candidate in the past presidential election.

"I think it is necessary to find an equitable solution" in regard to these officers, Borja said, adding that he could not give "any more details for the time being."

Congress Supports Borja on Peru Border Dispute
PA1708044388 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Resolution issued by the Congress on 16 August; read by the Congress secretary general]

[Text] Whereas: The constitutional president of the Republic [Rodrigo Borja] in his inaugural statement to the nation upon assuming office—a high responsibility entrusted to him by the Ecuadoran people—has expressed the national desire to find an honorable and peaceful solution to the territorial dispute with Peru.

In his statement, the president of the Republic interpreted the Ecuadoran people's wishes by saying that he hopes to have peace with dignity, based on respect for our rights in the Amazon, which are of vital importance to the future of our peoples.

The part of the president's speech regarding the territorial dispute is in accordance with the political Constitution of Ecuador and with the principles established in American international law.

It is therefore resolved:

1. To support the Ecuadoran people's thesis expressed by the constitutional president of Ecuador regarding the territorial dispute with Peru.

2. To reiterate the peaceful inclinations of the Ecuadoran people and their desire to find a solution through an open and realistic dialogue that will permit the integration and development of our nations.